

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVI.]

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BIRTHS.

On August 25th, at "Tantallan," Barker Road, the wife of Capt. J. DOUGLAS, of a daughter.
On September 3rd, Shameen, Canton, the wife of JAMES McISAAC, of a son.
On September 4th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. F. LARGE, a son.
On September 14th, at the Government Civil Hospital, the wife of JEHANGIR MUNCHERJI MAS-ER, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On August 26th, at Newchwang, Mr. R. T. TEBBITT of H. B. M's Consular Service, to Miss CAMELLIA L. SARGENT of Newchwang.

DEATHS.

On August 16th, at Nagasaki, of cholera, JOHN CHATHAM, for many years Foreman Fitter to the Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.
On August 18th, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, A. CAROLINE LEACH, aged 23 years.
On August 28th, at Lungchow, JEAN HENRI FOUGERAT, Acting Commissioner of Customs, aged 58 years.
On September 4th, at Hankow, W. J. WIGLESWORTH, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, aged 26 years.
On September 5th, at Shanghai JOHN ALEXANDER STEWART, in his 68th year.
On September 5th at Shanghai, NUSSERVANJEE DHUNJEEBHAY SETNA, brother of Mr. SORABJEE DHUNJEEBHAY SETNA, aged 41 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of August 13th arrived, per the s.s. *Goeben*, on Monday, the 9th inst.; and the French Mail of August 16th arrived, per the s.s. *Nera*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Cholera seems to be remarkably prevalent in Shanghai and Tientsin.

Pak Yong-ho, the ex-Minister of the Korean Imperial Household, left Chemulpo on the 3rd inst. for Quelpart Island, to which he has been exiled.

The Colony's total assets on June 30th amounted to \$1,526,596.44, and its total liabilities to \$307,177.34, which leaves a balance of assets amounting to \$1,319,419.10.

Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai has issued an order to the Maritime Customs that all luggage of officials who travel officially, or other goods of officials shall be duly examined in the same way as those of private persons, so as to check all smuggling.

According to the latest returns, the import of Japanese goods to Vladivostok is worth seven million roubles against 2,200,000 roubles in 1903, while the corresponding figures for Russian exports to Japan are 223,000 roubles in 1906 and 8,200,000 roubles in 1903.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong observatory during the month of August shows the average maximum temperature to have been 86.7 and the minimum 78.3 degrees. A total of 14.855 inches of rain fell during the month, while in the same period we had 222.5 hours of sun shine.

It is stated that the British Syndicate which has agreed to lend the funds for the construction of the proposed Tientsin-Chinkiang Railway has notified the Chinese authorities that the Railway Company will be expected to make an annual repayment of four million taels on account of interest and instalment on the loan.

A Peking dispatch states that H. I. M. Kuang Hsi is suffering from a chronic illness of blood spitting. The Emperor refuses to see any member of the Imperial College of Physicians, but he has been writing out a daily description of his ailments from which the College is expected to make out prescriptions for the Imperial patient.

A Daily Press telegram dated Tokyo, Sept. 9th said:—A disastrous fire has occurred in the foreign settlement at Kobe. Messrs. Carlowitz and Company's offices and godowns have been destroyed. The damage is estimated at Yen 1,000,000, and the loss falls on the British Insurance Companies.

A Wuchang letter states that members of the Hupoh foreign-modelled Army and representatives of Education in that province have lately been occupied with the project of putting up a bronze statue of Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, in some conspicuous place in Wuchang. This having come to the ears of his Excellency he at once issued orders to stop the movement.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st August, 1907 as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are as under:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserves.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	3,448,122	2,300,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Limited	15,925,055	11,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	248,86	125,000
Total	\$19,621,263	13,425,000

September 1 being the anniversary of the founding of the Kuangtung Government and the general opening of Manchuria to foreign trade, was celebrated at Port Arthur as Administration Day, foreigners and Chinese taking part in the rejoicings. The Governor General, in the course of his address, said that the day was memorable, being not merely of national but of international interest. He then went on to champion zealously the "open door" and equal opportunities in Manchuria, and pledged the realization of these ideals. These sentiments met with enthusiastic response.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., left Hongkong for India on Sept. 7th by the P. and O. steamer "Marmora." In the morning he breakfasted with His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard at Mountain Lodge and afterwards came down to town. In a chair borne by the red-uniformed gubernatorial coolies he paid a number of calls. In the P. & O. office he was introduced to the Hon. Mr. Hewett and as he was leaving there he met an old Parliamentarian in the person of the Attorney-General, the hon. Mr. Rees Davies, who was in the House of Commons from 1892 to 1898, while Mr. Keir Hardie was a member from 1892 to 1895. One of the most interesting incidents of the morning was when a big coolie hat which Mr. Keir Hardie had bought in Canton was handed over to the custody of a Government House coolie who grinned and asked "how muchee?" On board Mr. Keir Hardie was introduced to a number of people who were interested in meeting such a striking personality.

The veto imposed by the Chinese Government upon the export of cereals from the leased territory of Kwantung is said to have been inspired by ex-Governor Chou. Its effect has been disastrous to persons engaged in the despatch of millet and beans from Tairan, and incidentally the South Manchurian Railway finds its goods traffic appreciably reduced. The *Jiji Shimpo* has an article on this subject. It takes the lines that if China insists upon this veto, she will be practically surrendering the leased territory to Japan as a permanent possession, and such procedure is strikingly inconsistent not only with the attempts she has hitherto made to assert her sovereign power in the leased territory, but also with the rights-recovery policy which she so persistently pursues. Japan holds Kwantung under lease from the Chinese Government. Thus the right of eminent domain plainly is vested in China, and to allege that the Liaotung Peninsula, in spite of this lease, is no longer Chinese territory but belongs to a foreign State, is a plainly impossible position.

TREATY COMMEMORATION.

Tokyo, September 15th.

In commemoration of the conclusion of the treaties with France and Russia, honours have been conferred upon the diplomatists concerned. The more notable instances are that the Foreign Minister, Viscount Hayashi, becomes a Count, while Ambassadors Kurino (Paris) and Motono (St. Petersburg) are made barons.

Marquis Ito, received as a guest of the citizens of Tokyo, spoke of the disturbed state of Korea. He was sorry he could not guarantee that in future the Koreans would not break into open rebellion against Japanese authority, and he feared that affairs would not proceed as he had hoped and planned. He would, however, do his utmost to guide and educate the people.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

(Daily Press, September 7th.)

It is not only affairs connected with Manchuria that are straining the relations between China and Japan, as mentioned in our Tokyo correspondent's telegram. There is at present a good deal of soreness, on the Chinese side at least, regarding the Japanese attitude toward a long-outstanding boundary dispute with Korea. On the north eastern boundary of Korea, marching with a corner of Manchuria, between the Touman river and its tributary, the Tumen, lies the Chientao district, (called by the Japanese 'Kanto') measuring over 260 miles latitudinally and about sixty or seventy miles longitudinally. This section was a very stormy corner during the Russo-Japanese war, and the inhabitants were so harried by one side or the other, and afterwards by bandits, that it seems a pity they cannot enjoy a little peace now. It appears, however, that more troubles await them. China and Korea have never agreed as to the overlordship of this strip of territory. History says that about A. D. 1712 special commissioners from China and Korea erected the boundary stone on the watershed between the Yalu on the west and the Tumen on the east, on the south eastern slope of the Paitionshan, where it still stands with a legible inscription. But the Chinese say there has been confusion of names, between the Touman and the Tumen, and have regularly re-opened the dispute for many years past. There was to have been another boundary commission three years ago, but the outbreak of war between Russia and Japan prevented it. The Russians were at that time in force there, and the Korean administration of the district was rendered a farce. About three years before that, a Chinese yamen was established at Chientao, and the officials acting under instructions from Peking ignored the Korean officials and governed as if the area were unquestionably Chinese. The Koreans never ceased to protest, however, and even sent troops to protect the Korean residents from molestation. They were powerless against the bandits who poured in after the war, as indeed were also the Chinese, and when reports reached the Japanese Resident-General at Seoul that certain Japanese settlers had been killed, in addition to the numerous complaints from Koreans, no time was lost in despatching a Japanese officer with a small force, to maintain order. The neighbouring Chinese officials resented this, as an indication that the Japanese were bent on arbitrarily settling the outstanding boundary dispute, and with characteristic mendacity they alleged that everything was so quiet and peaceful and orderly there that there could be no other reason for the presence of soldiers. There is no doubt whatever, according to information, that the arrival of a force of military police was opportune, and the Japanese Government is unlikely to refuse to discuss the old boundary question along with other matters under negotiation. The Chinese jealous dislike of the Japanese shows no abatement, and the reports of ignorant and prejudiced provincial mandarins are bound to add fuel to the flames at Peking. It is to be hoped, for China's own sake, that moderate counsels will prevail, and that the advent of Count Okuma will find both sides prepared to argue reasonably. The officialdom of China has been noticeably more "uppish" lately, and the Chino-Japanese negotiations are therefore likely to be protracted. We do not anticipate, however, as is suggested in the extract on our third page, that there will be any "conflict."

SUPERSTITION.

(Daily Press, 9th September.)

The typhoon signals were up, and her menfolk were not yet returned. The old woman hobbled down to the beach, and lit a small fire of sticks and josspaper. Joss sticks were stuck upright in the sand, and set a-smouldering, while she spread out a semicircular row of little bowls. From a bottle she poured a libation, partly into the sea and partly on the strand, incanting all the while. Rice was sprinkled broadcast, and a few of the commoner sort of cakes broken into fragments. There was still an elaborately ornamented cake and a slice of fat pork left, and the observer, reflecting on the comparative costliness of these things, sighed over the wastefulness of Chinese superstition. But the old woman, casting a furtive glance at some sampan women a little way off, ceased her incantation for just long enough to cram the cake into her mouth, first making a motion as if she had thrown it also to the sea. Whether to deceive the Water Joss or her neighbours, more probably the latter, it was clear that while superstitious, she was not absolutely a slave to superstition. There is a good deal said about the Chinese and their superstitions, and sometimes more than is warranted. There are superstitions that govern people thoroughly, and superstitions that touch little more than the fringe of their fancy. The educated European who, after spilling the salt, flicks a pinch over his left shoulder, will giggle and tell you that he or she does not really believe in bad luck of that kind, but they always follow the prescribed practice for averting it, to make sure, so to speak. Then there are superstitions which the people believe to be nonsense, but because they are conventional, their scornfuls follow them in fear of public opinion. Unless the furtive behaviour of the old woman on the beach was misinterpreted, she feared her neighbours more than she feared the Water Joss. Lately there has been a good deal said about the comet and the amusing fuss it has created in Chinese circles. The pit has been calling the kettle black, most industriously. One commentator refers scornfully to the Peking superstition that confers upon a comet the power of creating rebellions. That, however, is not so foolish as it looks. The officials at Peking, who know from the astronomers, that a comet is just as natural a phenomenon as an eclipse, may still reckon that it can cause rebellions, for the mass of the people are easily excited by any unusual and to them inexplicable event. The Emperor does not explain it to his foolish children, but magnanimously offers himself as a sacrifice, and thus, when the event passes without harm to them, strengthens his position. The comet takes the place of the miracle in convincing unbelievers. The reported "alarm" of the Imperial Court circle is probably fictitious, and published with a purpose. The circumstance does not, at any rate, call for foreign astonishment at "the state of mind which urges the Government of a vast empire to public self-abasement before a natural phenomenon, which its own astronomers are capable of predicting." We have only to remember the public prayers for rain, good harvest, or the recovery of a royalty's health, to find the same superstitious attitude toward natural phenomena in the most civilized and enlightened community in the world. While that sort of thing retains our approval, we cannot decently laugh at the Chinese. Practically, when everything is reduced to its lowest denominator, we find that we are in the

same box with them, in this connection. Sir THOMAS WADE referred to their readiness to laugh at their own superstitions, which however, he says, they dare not disregard. Sir THOMAS WADE knew a great deal about them, but he was not a very subtle observer. That readiness to laugh is partly intellectual superiority and partly the Oriental form of politeness which has to belittle everything personal, while the thing they dare not disregard is public opinion, not the Josses. In a country where so much is thought of "losing face," where uniformity is an end rather than a means, the most intelligent and enlightened Chinaman has to think twice before he translates his contempt into action. Even in other lands, among people who claim superiority, the fear that fills many pews is not the fear of God but the fear of the respectable neighbours. That is why, in China, the small footed woman will persist for a long while yet, long after the crippling fashion is declared illegal. Then also, in all races, it must be remembered that superstition has had a long innings. It is more easily instilled than eradicated. It has been so long with us that it persists, inherent, almost an instinct, amongst the most materially minded and scientifically trained people. It is something of which to be ashamed when present in ourselves, but something at which, in others, we have scarcely the right to laugh, unless it be that by ridicule we hope to drive it away. On the score of its historic cruelty and wastefulness, it is a thing we should lose no opportunity of attacking.

UNWIELDY EMPIRES.

(Daily Press, September 10th.)

Travel is supposed to broaden the mind and widen the understanding, and we hastily assumed, when referring to Mr. KEIR HARDIE, M.P., that his voyage round the world would free him from some of his blunders and foolish notions. But after all, it occurs to us, the truth of the supposition depends upon the quality of the mind and the nature of the understanding. A globe-trotter's gallop round does not do much good, as we have had opportunities of noting in the plethora of globetrotteriana on which so much good printer's ink is wasted. For one thing, we notice Mr. KEIR HARDIE is taking home the threadbare saying that makes Chinese merchants universally honest and Japanese merchants the reverse. It is pitiful to find any publicist able to dwell for a moment on such self-evident nonsense. Then at Shanghai, we note that Mr. KEIR HARDIE "made particular enquiries with regard to what the Chinese had accomplished in the matter of municipalities, and expressed the opinion that proceeding from these organizations, if they were wisely guided, the Chinese could scarcely fail to strike the right road to the attainment of a perfect constitutional system. From the family circle to the village community; from the village community to the urban corporation; thence to the elective, national legislative assembly; these were the lines, he thought, upon which their political development ought and was destined to progress, and he was very hopeful indeed, of the future of this great and generous people, the Chinese, whose real dignity and importance in the family of nations they themselves were only now beginning to realize." For a gas, as any averagely read person ought to know, the Chinese have had the opportunity of politically developing along those lines, the family circle, the village elders, the district,

and so on, up through an exceedingly elaborate system of centralisation. But they never have, and we doubt if they ever will, manage an effective administration of the whole empire. The secret is that it is too big, and its composites too diverse, to run as an entity. The dreams of a federated British empire are fated to failure for a like reason, and Russia and America will before long be adducible as instances, like the Roman empire and the still-born empire of NAPOLEON I. We hold the belief that there is an unsurpassable limit to the size of empires, and that when that limit is approached, a natural and inevitable process commences analogous to that in the kingdom of the lowest unicellular organisms, which obtain reproduction and continuance by an asexual movement known as spontaneous fission. Anyhow, history is with us, in showing that the fate of the unwieldy empire is as the fate of the Tower of Babel.

LOCAL MURDER TRIALS.

(Daily Press, September 10th.)

The great responsibility devolving upon a governor in the case of confirming or commuting the capital penalty of crime will be readily admitted. Few people would care to share it with him, and the general reluctance of men to serve on juries in cases where the verdict of guilty may mean death has been fairly noticeable. With this scruple in view, it is fair to assume that unless they feel very sure indeed of their facts, the jurymen will hesitate to condemn the prisoner. They gladly avail themselves of the judicial instruction to give the prisoner or prisoners the benefit of any doubt. We are informed that in the case of the Indians convicted of the murder of a compatriot, and afterwards, in what we may perhaps be excused for considering a hole-and-corner manner, reprieved, the jurymen had no doubts as to the justice of their verdict, nor of the extreme penalty they expected to follow. In the case of the Chinese convicted and sentenced for the murder of a compatriot in Des Voeux Road, we believe that if the opinions of the individual jurymen were taken, they would all declare that the prisoners are as much or more entitled to commutation as or than the Indians were; but we still await the official announcement that a like mercy has been extended to them. We hope it will be shortly forthcoming. We are moved to refer again to the matter in consequence of reading a reference to the Singapore case, about which we had something to say. A contemporary, referring to a petition for the free pardon of SANDWELL, who killed a fellow soldier, makes the astounding comment that "the voluntary commutation on the part of the Government seems to show that it feels that a miscarriage of justice has taken place." This comment puts the embarrassing responsibility of a governor in even stronger light. So far as we have been enabled to follow the Singapore case, the reprieve was prompted by a popular sentiment and the fact that the prisoner's record up to the time of his lapse was untarnished. This is not far from establishing a principle putting murderers on a par with dangerous dogs, entitled to their first bite gratis. The contention was that the man had a "brainstorm," or he would not, with his record, have done such a thing. The contention now, in pleading for his free pardon, seems to be that he will never have another—a proposition which has only to be put into words for its absurdity to appear. By-and-by humanity is going to be very sorry for this namby-pamby reluctance to deal

faithfully with its abnormal members, unless it be awakened in time to a sense of its suicidal sentimentalism. Meanwhile, as a local question, it will invite very awkward comparisons if those Chinese are hanged, and the Indians allowed to live. We would urge their reprieve.

THE PEKING APPOINTMENTS.

(Daily Press, 11th September.)

The calling up of the two veterans, their Excellencies CHANG CHI-TUNG and YUEN SHI-KAI, to the Grand Council, and their vacation of their offices as viceroys of the Hukwang and Chili respectively, implies even more than is apparent on the face of things. Practically it means the final disappearance of the last of the old generation; which was itself the immediate legatee of the evil traditions of the Lins and Yehs, who by their crass and wilful ignorance of affairs really brought on the long tale of China's humiliations, from the "battle" of Chuenpi in 1839 to the occupation of Peking in 1900. In no one case were these hostile movements commenced by the Foreigner, who was held up before the nation as a fit subject for reprobation; and these rulers to whom were entrusted the preservation of order were in every case the instigators of the lowest mobs to violence. It was, in fact, the unfitness of the individual representatives of government, and their ignorance of the first principles of order and control, that in every case brought on its own punishment. But like as were the lower officials, truculent and ignorant; so likewise were the chiefs, from the Emperor himself downwards; so that instead of the errant officer receiving condemnation and (where he deserved it) degradation from the heads of the state, in each case the perpetrator of these senseless outrages—senseless because they could not fail to be revenged by the recipient—was rewarded with honours as the upholder of the dignity of his country. On the other hand men like KISHEN and KIYING, who by dignified mien and suave demeanour were practically able to turn almost about their fingers such comparatively unsophisticated agents as POTTINGER and DAVIS, and who really meant well to their country, ended their lives miserably in banishment. The inevitable consequence of this was the two wars of 1842 and 1858-1860. Hardly better than these was the next generation, when men like LI HUNG-CHANG rose to the head of affairs. With sufficient knowledge of external affairs to avoid the blunders of adopting openly the policy of displaying the tone of superiority which cost their predecessors so dearly, they yet sought, by playing off one Power against the other, to get the Powers themselves to act towards one another the same game. The result was the Japanese War, wherein China met with even worse treatment than before, and had to suffer still deeper degradation, as it was their own nearest neighbour who this time came to the front, and made them submit to still harsher terms. Still Li was unable to read the lesson aright, and China was near having to pay the penalty in entire absorption in the Empire of Russia, then at her height of power. From this she was saved by the skin of her teeth by her late enemy, but had to undergo the still further humiliation of being made to feel that she could no longer pose as a nation dealing on equal terms with even the despised Japanese. But the old leaven was still at work, and this time it was the EMPRESS DOWAGER, who had contrived to prolong her regency over a benevolent but weak EMPEROR, and in the uprising of

Peking in 1900 hoped with, as she thought, the connivance of Russia, to get rid once for all of the hated but now feared Foreigner. But Russia, even if she cared, could not dissociate herself from the other European Powers, and the result was the flight of the erring DOWAGER, and her unwilling ward. At last the lesson was apparently learnt, but it necessitated the coming to the front of an entirely new class of statesmen, amongst whom LIU KWEN-YI, the late Viceroy of Nanking, took the most conspicuous place, and with the friendly but unobtrusive aid of England succeeded in dragging China out of her latest, but most formidable difficulty.

For a time the Empire was practically ruled by the three men, LIU KWEN-YI, YUEN SHI-KAI, Viceroy of Chili, and CHANG CHI-TUNG, Viceroy of the Liang Hu. We have lately spoken of the last two of these; the other unfortunately perhaps for his country, died a couple of years ago. Both of the others have proved themselves faithful and patriotic servants, and it is largely owing to their influence that the position of China has been of late decidedly improved, and that she has been again able to hold up her head amongst the nations. This, however, has not been accomplished without much misgiving. The old idea that China can succeed in shaking herself free from her engagements with the world at large is unfortunately still rampant amongst too large a number of her ruling class, and YUEN SHI-KAI has been made the scapegoat, and narrowly escaped two years ago from being deposed; fortunately for China, by keeping his own counsel and acting judiciously, he was able to stem the current and the Empire was probably saved from a worse fall than ever. But the future is by no means assured, and all the schemes proposed as reforms are hardly yet within the reach of China. It is therefore perhaps not altogether to be regretted that the more violent reformers have not been permitted to have their way; and that China has been proceeding on the whole cautiously.

Whether the latest departure, and the handing over of the provinces to the new generation of Statesmen will raise China to a higher relative position, of course, rests one of the problems of the future. It is a reassuring sign, so far as it goes, that CHANG CHI-TUNG and YUEN SHI-KAI have been placed in a position, where, if disposed, they can wield a large influence for good. After all, with all its faults, and they have been many, China has always had an attraction for those who have been associated with it. It is not by chance that individual Chinese statesmen when they chose to unband themselves have generally exercised a particular charm over even the most intelligent diplomats of stranger nations; sometimes, as we have noticed, with even able men, who have unconsciously been unable to withstand their arguments, even against their own better judgment. What is true of individuals is largely true of the nation as a whole. China is something more than merely interesting, and her statesmen, though often childish almost in their ignorance, are yet on subjects of which they have sufficient knowledge the most agreeable of contestants. Few of the now numerous envoys sent abroad but have succeeded in gaining the confidence of the courts to which they were accredited; and though this has occasionally been accomplished by arts verging on humbug, the fact is, however we account for it, that the Chinese Minister never permits himself abroad to sink into a nonentity. This is a matter of universal experience, and in judging of the probable future of China at

home, we cannot afford to forget that the Chinese statesman, who has got beyond the childish superstitions of his childhood, is quite, so far as intelligence is concerned, on a par with his ordinary European colleague.

CHINESE SQUEEZE, WITH SOME DIGRESSIONS.

(Daily Press, 12th September.)

An esteemed contemporary has succeeded in deeply interesting us with its "philosophy of squeeze," approaching the subject from an entirely different point of view to that we recently adopted. It holds up in one hand the conspicuous civility and dignity of the Chinese; and in the other their alleged cupidity and mendacity. Having invited us to look on this picture, and then on that, our contemporary puts the poser, "Is Chinese dignity a sham?" and "If it is not, how can it square with Chinese avarice?" It is a quaint situation to conjure up, and to guard as far as we can against misrepresenting our contemporary's presentation of the problem, we may give some of its own words. "Now we must either admit," it says, "that Chinese dignity is, as a matter of fact, nothing more than a sham, or we must show that it is independent of his attitude towards money." In conclusion, it decides that Chinese dishonesty is irrelevant to Chinese dignity, with these words, "There is no real antagonism between Chinese dignity and Chinese 'squeeze' because, however much we may regret it, there is no connection whatever between the two." There is no mathematical device for which we have such unfeigned affection as the process of discovering the least or lowest common multiple. It is the only principle of arithmetic for which we could ever summon up any admiration, the only branch of the science of numbers whose reason and justice ever pierced our dislike of figures and figuring. We love it because it is one way of making sums easier. The process appeals to us in other things. Where possible we like to reduce everything to its simplest terms. When our contemporary talks about the irrelevance of honesty, remarking that "since the expediency of honesty is only to be estimated by the strengthening influences it exercises upon similar conceptions, it is not included in the morality of Chinese life, and we are presented with yet another paradox, that the Chinese can be dishonest without being undignified, simply because his dignity cannot be held to be in any way connected with a conception of which his practical life knows nothing," we confess to being in some mental haze; we yearn for a simplification of multiples. Can a dignified Chinaman squeeze? If that is the question, we could answer it straight off. Can a Chinese squeeze with dignity? That also assumes no formidability. We at once recall the imperturbable dignity of the "boy" who, on its being conclusively demonstrated that the amah could not have had access to the decanter from which the sherry had wandered, shook his head and expressed his regretful fear that amahs as a class were not to be trusted. Also that other who accounted for some missing *crème de menthe* by suggesting that the cook had put it in the soup, and on being warned against falsehood, declared earnestly that "spoon Chinaman talkee lie, he fall down dead chop-chop." What, again, can surpass the dignity of the tradesman who, in ignorance of the fact that you can read the price-mark, overcharges you twenty or thirty per cent, and smilelessly and unwinkingly hands you the balance of your change when you point

out his perfidy? Certainly, if that be the question, dignity and squeeze present no entanglement. Who said they did? Let us hark back a little. Our contemporary enlarges on the Chinese dread of "losing face." "Personal dignity must never be compromised, and the stage of life must always be trodden with a proud front, a dignified bearing and a perpetual calm." Yet this does not interfere with their "passion for money." Why should it? Why should it interfere with any of their predilections not germane? The dignity of Mr. WHACKFORD SQUEERS was not impaired by the rest of his behaviour. Mr. DOMBEY, senior, maintained his while guilty of numerous little-nesses; and the indubitable dignity of that architect and laudsurveyor of Salisbury, Mr. PECKSNIFF, has passed into a proverb. When we read that "the practice of 'squeeze,' with all the dishonesty it entails, reveals the Chinese in anything but a dignified attitude," we begin to realize that there may be more than one conception of dignity. We begin to suspect that the curious problem suggested itself to our contemporary through a momentary confusion of dignity (as we define it) with honour. Honour may intrinsically belong to a man, or it may be conferred upon him, but essentially, and strictly speaking, it should be the intrinsic quality of a man of honour. Dignity, in its derivation, would be almost synonymous, but in practice and in fact it is something altogether different. It is extrinsic, assumed. A dishonourable person may be eminently dignified, and a very dignified person may be exceedingly dishonourable. Hence the perplexity of our contemporary. If a plebiscite were to be taken as to what is generally understood by dignity, we feel sure it would come out as a mere appearance, a seeming, an aspect. A man may seem or appear that which he is, or that which he is not. Honour, however, is something that is, something inside. A man of honour may not always seem such; he is not concerned to show it. A man's honour is something for his own conscience to approve; his dignity is ostensible, something for the approval of beholders, of outsiders. That is why we do not apotheosise dignity. We do not value it. We have no use for it. It is too cheap. A man of honour may at times be undignified. If he has any sense of humour, he won't mind that. The man whose only asset is this kind of dignity, however, is exceedingly discomforted by any lapse. Imagine a caller catching a mandarin playing 'bear' in his nursery! How the mandarin would 'lose face.' Yet what sort of a man is he who would feel ashamed of such innocent conduct intended to give pleasure to the young? The foreigner who pances about his bedroom of a morning, snarling at his wife over a missing shirt button, is not ashamed of his undignified behaviour. But outside, in public, he will wink at almost any offence or insult rather than "make a scene." That is dignity, as popularly understood. In a previous article on Chinese etiquette, and foreign too, we tried to show how similarly hollow it was, and is. The compensating beauty of the arrangement is that the dignity of such persons is their Samson's hair, their tendon Achilles, their vulnerable point. It is at once their armour and the most easily penetrated joint of it. The man who fears to 'lose face' is at the mercy of any one who does not care about this pretentious and shoddy attribute. Our contemporary evidently does not recognise the popular conception of it, however. It is thinking of honour. "Most of us," it says, meaning foreigners, "have

conceptions which we would hesitate to sacrifice for any monetary reward, however large. . . . Honesty, in fact, is the main basis upon which the personal dignity of the European rests, and when a European loses his sense of honesty, the rest of his fellows say that he has lost all sense of personal dignity." That comment is certainly new to us. We never dreamed of making it, and we never heard it made. In all seriousness, does it not depend upon the extent of the dishonesty? Let us consider what people think, not what they may pretend to think. Does the public regard JOHN WILLIAM STAGG, who gets a month for coal stealing and JABEZ BALFOUR, who misappropriates many thousands of pounds, through the same eyes? Suggest the idea of "dignity" to them: would they not, while denying it to the petty thief, hesitate in the case of the bigger rascal? Why, recently, when an officer of the British army was charged with misappropriating trust money, and his lawyer said it would all be returned, did not the magistrate, in dismissing him, say he had only himself to blame for his undignified position? What would the same magistrate have said of a mere clerk embezzling the petty cash of his employer? Surely nothing about dignity. As we read further, we find that our contemporary does admit that certain dignity—Chinese dignity—is meaningless, an "elaborate and grotesque attempt to keep up appearances." Quite right; but there is absolutely no warrant for suggesting that foreign dignity is anything better. Our code of honour in commercial ethics is higher, let us say, but it follows that our lapses from it are correspondingly more unworthy. Much Chinese 'squeeze,' as we have previously argued, while dishonesty to us, appears to them merely sharp practice. If it fails, they do not lose face. The failure does not touch their dignity. Their attitude toward it is 'better luck next time.' But the dignity of foreign wrong-doers is no better. If their lapses can be hushed up, "kept out of the papers," their dignity remains unimpaired. Our contemporary goes on:

Professor Giles has made the paradoxical but penetrating assertion that, whilst the Chinese are a nation of liars, they are not a nation of thieves, and this statement furnishes a key to the difficulty with which we are dealing. For if we examine the character of Chinese morality we shall see how it is that while in Europe the one propensity is generally held to be inseparable from the other, in China there is no necessary connexion between them; and we shall arrive, too, at an explanation of the Chinese attitude towards life. To venture to sum up a somewhat big question in few words, we may say that Chinese morality is retrospective, basing itself for practical purposes upon the worship of ancestors, whereas European morality is prospective, and its touchstone is the welfare of descendants. Where Confucius would judge a man's actions by the test of conservatism, Kant would judge them by that of universality; and thus, whilst European morality reaches out towards the ideal, Chinese morality is concerned only with the perpetuation of custom. From this point of view European morality gradually becomes dominated by absolute conceptions, but Chinese morality always remains dominated by those which are relative, until expediency becomes the lode-star to the life of a Chinese. He cannot steal, because theft implies a dangerous disregard for property and therein a pernicious contempt for antiquity; but he can lie because truth is one of those absolute conceptions with which he is not called upon to deal.

With all proper respect, and perhaps with some loss of dignity, we feel compelled to retort "fudge." European morality does reach out to the ideal, but only to frame it and hang it on the wall. Why, for hundreds of years we have been teaching

our budding Samurai that honesty is the best policy. Not the highest ideal, but the most expedient method. Even our contemporary, in its remark that the one propensity [? honesty or dignity] is held to be inseparable from the other, appears content with the thought that honesty is more dignified than dishonesty. At bottom, both honour and morals are everywhere matters of utility; utilitarianism is their universal essence. Honour, now all too rare, even in Europe, or too often falsely based, is the arbitrary code of a small community, of a group, of a family, or of a class. Morality is the arbitrary code of a bigger community, derived from communal necessity, and imperfectly expressed in its laws. What is perfectly moral in the Arctic circle may be immoral in the tropics. The moral Inuit gives euthanasia to his feeble and useless grandparents: the moral European protects and nurtures all his diseased and crippled neighbours: the moral and dignified Chinaman squeezes you a few dollars: the moral European tradesman would blush to charge you more than an article is worth. But if our contemporary can point to any place in the wide world where expediency, "the lodestar of a Chinese," does not generally over-ride ethical "absolute conceptions," we hope it will do so. We shall hasten to look-see. In Europe, where it seems to think expediency does not count, we have heard of Morganatic marriages (in other circles called bigamy and most immoral), of dignified magistrates just back from the Derby fining working men and bookmakers for transferring shillings in the way they transferred sovereigns, of Christian employers getting rid of servants too old to work, of guineapig directors of public companies, and of numerous other things where, if it be a "reaching out towards the ideal," we can only conclude there has been over-reaching. This loose way of lumping whole peoples, of prating of "Japanese commercial improbity," of European impeccability, of Scottish "nearness," of French hysteria, of Asiatic barbarity, of John Bull's courage, and so forth, is the cause of these tiresome arguments. One would think there never was an honourable Japanese, a European rogue, an open-handed Caledonian, a sober Frenchman, a gentle, peaceful Asiatic scholar, or a British coward. The phrases are handy and useful sometimes, we may as well admit, but as reasonable beings we must guard against letting such a phrase as "American hustle" persuade us there are no lazy, shiftless Americans. Professor GILES, when or if he said that the Chinese are a nation of liars, but not thieves, is not to be credited with a "penetrating assertion." It was merely a humorous impertinence.

MISSIONARIES.

(Daily Press, September 13th.)

A little bit of gossip—a chance remark—one phrase, will set us imagining some scene, until sometimes it becomes as real to us as if we had actually beheld it with "eyes of flesh." Think of His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces and Vice-Admiral of the same, a man exalted, bending over and getting a light for his cigar from the "stump" of KEIR HARDIE, ex-miner and present demagogue. That is a little intimate incident that gossip hands over to the historians. It was, however, a case of host and guest. The two men can hardly be considered to come so close mentally. In one matter, at least, they part and go off tangentially. KEIR HARDIE is reported to have said that if he were Dictator of the

Empire, he would give the missionaries a free passage home, at least all missionaries except the medical and secularly educational missionaries. That is not an opinion he has picked up on his travels; he no doubt brought it with him, and derived it from a lively sense of the impertinence (in the view of an intellectually free man) of thrusting dogma upon an already religious and philosophic people. His Excellency the Governor, judging by the fact that he sacrificed a dinner for them, has a greater respect for the missionaries. It so happens that his first public oration in Hongkong was given at the Morrison Centenary Meeting on Tuesday night. Delivered *ex tempore*, with fluent ease, it was a capital start for an important celebration. With regard to its matter, we can find no fault. It is a diplomatic speech, the careful utterance of one squaring his sympathy and responsibility. His Excellency's eulogy of missionary work was confined to those features of it which have our approval, and the approval of those who, like KEIR HARDIE, most strongly object to other features. When he remarked that there is no higher or finer form of missionary enterprise than the medical, His Excellency said something to which only a bigot could take exception. His experience of missionaries in other parts of the world had apparently convinced him that the medical kind achieved most good. The medical mission is the highest and finest, however, for another reason—because its method is the correct method. The correct method of conducting Christian missionary work, as we understand it, is to live Christianity rather than to talk it, to demonstrate rather than to preach. That was ROBERT MORRISON's favoured way, to "go about doing good," after the manner of his Exemplar, healing the sick, and comforting the afflicted. It has had, and would have, a more convincing effect upon the Chinese and others, than any amount of pulpit theology. If missionaries only adopted that method of working, at home and abroad, they would have our heartiest sympathy. Too often, however, they bring, not the bread of Christian conduct, of charitable deed and living example, but the stone of creed. The heathen in his blindness sees no necessity for changing his religious formulæ. Why should he? Imagine the positions reversed! What success, say, would a host of Buddhist missionaries gain in England, if they merely preached and argued, with spiritual promises and threats. They would, if they ever gained a hearing, be flouted as impertinent meddlers with private and personal matters. But suppose they showed by their daily life and labour that they were better, happier men, nobler, kinder, more helpful and useful to their fellows, would not the attitude of their observers soon show a marked alteration? Those who had enjoyed contact with them, who had benefited by that contact, would call attention, we fancy, to their merits, and lead others to enquire as to the mainspring and basis of this extraordinary goodness. Alas! The missionaries who manage that are few and far between, and they are confined to no particular religion, unless it be the religion of humanity. Then they do it because it is their nature to; they cannot help it; and no particular belief inspires them. The propagandist philanthropist is a different person altogether. His love of mankind (if it be not obscurantive to loosely use terms to which specific uses attach) is subjective, not objective, conscious, not unconscious. He thinks more of his work, his duty, his ideals, than of their

needs and claims. The very cant of his cult encourages this attitude; every "soul won over" is a "star" for his or her "crown." If our impression of ROBERT MORRISON's character be nearly correct, the accident of his Christianity had had nothing to do with his good works. He would have done as he did for whatever creed he happened to have, or for none at all. His altruism was pure and had no ulterior purpose, at least, so we have been led to suppose. He was re-incarnated, so to speak, in the loveable man who was so mistakenly murdered on the steamer "Sainam", Dr. MACDONALD. We think of them as men of one type, unfortunately rare. We have been offering, we are well aware, counsel of perfection. It is easier to preach Christianity than to do it. Still, that does not affect the argument that the attempt at doing should precede the saying. Nor does it affect our well known view that China has no need of new theories, of new precepts, of new ideals. She already has a big stock, a good working plant, and where her people fail is in living up to them. The same has to be said of Europeans, of course; and that makes it all the more clear that it is impertinent to badger other people to change their precepts for ours, until we have shown that ours are more easily practised. We have not discussed the point that might be now raised against us in reply, a point that is sufficiently indicated in the phrase, The Paramount Importance of the Hereafter. It would be no use to do so, and needlessly offensive. To justify what has gone before, however, we may say that our study of Christianity impresses us with the importance its Founder placed upon the Here and Now, on the amelioration of existing conditions, and on the practice of altruism for its present advantage rather than for some future acknowledgment and reward. With the greatest respect and reverence, we profess that that to us is also the real, esoteric meaning of taking no thought for the morrow. If this be too shockingly heterodox for modern missionaries, we may remind them that the first missionaries were reproved for showing a too curious concern for that Future. On the whole, we do not think that KEIR HARDIE's summing up of the situation was so far amiss, except that he might have gone on to add that if the missionaries' best excuse and justification be their healing and teaching, they could go in ostensibly as healers and teachers just as well, and do the same good. That they do not, in many cases, indicates that the good work so done is incidental—not their immediate aim—and so not entitled to be cited as the warrant for all that they do.

CALIFORNIANS AND JAPANESE.

(Daily Press, September 14th.)

In the adage, what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, but in politics it is not. International relations are not arranged on any such principle. It is very touching to find an American paper crying *mea culpa*, especially a Californian paper. The *San Francisco Chronicle* of August 7th, one of the yellowest of the yellow press, one that has howled most strenuously on the side of race prejudice, and striven for popularity by parroting popular clamour, right or wrong, has been driven into a corner indeed, when it can bring itself to make the following confession:—

"We claim no right to enter Japan against the wish of its people, and now recognise that our armed intrusion under Commodore PERRY was an act of barbarism committed in the hope of exploitation. We

have no desire to repeat it upon any other nation, nor will we permit, without resistance, such intrusion upon ourselves. We desire to live upon our continent and to let live upon other continents."

We do not know what attitude this particular newspaper takes towards the American occupation of the Philippines, but it is not likely that it would applaud precisely the same claim if made by a Filipino journal. It talks of the right of each race to regard its own territory as a citizen regards his home—as a sacred place into which those only may be admitted who have the capacity of guestship, the personality which makes it possible to live with the host nation on terms of justice and righteousness. Justice and righteousness—in San Francisco! The more the San Franciscans appeal to reason in this matter, the worse their case appears. There is only one honest stand they can make, and if they made it and stuck to it, we could sympathise with them. "We do not want Asiatics, and rightly or wrongly, we refuse to take them." We could understand that, and we could even excuse it. But this talk of justice and righteousness is colossal impudence. Even with the frank confession of guilt regarding PERRY'S achievement, and the tardy apology for it, the San Francisco journal cannot get within touch of honesty. It is not objecting to "such intrusion upon ourselves," but to the peaceful entry of invited guests. The invitation is contained in the reciprocal treaty between Japan and America, an arrangement sought, not by the Japanese, but by the Americans themselves. Japan has faithfully kept her part of the bargain, and the American government finds itself unable to keep its part, owing to the incited clamour of a mob of sandbaggers in that notorious city of unrighteousness, San Francisco. We can enjoy the exchange of courtesies, goes on this unctuous humbug, with Japan's educated and distinguished men, we can cordially join them in scientific investigations and pursuits, we can trade with them in a friendly spirit but we cannot mingle peacefully with them as members of the same body politic. Why? This representative of thought in the body politic a body whose head has just been found to be so corrupt as to need interment—in jail, says the differences in ideals and habits of thought are absolutely irreconcilable. So it insists, to save its uniquely just and righteous ideals and habits of thought from being snowed under, that "this continent, being the home of a white race, shall be preserved as such, and we demand the exclusion of Asiatics because we insist that they shall not break up our home." One would think from that pathetic tag that it had been the Japanese who had been doing the rioting and house-breaking, instead of the highly civilized clientele of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In words distinctly and deliberately provocative of further lawlessness, it hints at necessary and inevitable fighting, "which no laws can prevent." It may be noted that it speaks for the whole continent, a claim that the best Americans repudiate. During the trouble, it has shifted from one ground to another, and probably will soon be driven to make the only stand we have indicated as admissible. When it gets there, and it is very near it now, we will be prepared to listen to it with more patience.

After all, this shifting of populations is getting to be an embarrassing problem, and even rough and ready solutions threaten to become welcome before long. Australia has been tackling it for a long time; British Columbia is busy with it now; South Africa has had a taste of it; and even over Liver-

pool in England its shadow has fallen. Japan herself has begun to deport Chinese coolies. To a disinterested onlooker, the general situation is reminiscent of the two donkeys, each with its head over the fence, reaching for its neighbour's grass. It has to be admitted that the white man started the game. If he hadn't, there would have been no American nation to-day. So it is no use talking of justice and righteousness, unless we are prepared to retrace our steps. Merely to copy the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and to admit that our intrusions were acts of barbarism, is not enough. If we persist in forcing our friendly intercourse upon people of different skin, prating of good will the while, we must learn to see their pigmentation without openly shuddering, and even to rub elbows with them without trying to kick them. There is another way. It is unlikely that every American and Englishman will be withdrawn from China and Japan, which would be necessary to bring expulsion and exclusion into line with justice and righteousness. Perhaps, if it is found that San Francisco and Vancouver must have their way, the Powers will try the plan that the Americans have adopted for the Red Indians; to take such portions of China and Japan as we need, and herd and confine the natives into "reservations" in the unclaimed balance. But as that might stagger humanity, the chance is that after all San Francisco and Vancouver will have to put their demands in their pockets, and take their chance with the rest of the world, under the existing arrangements. The white man having made his bed must lie upon it. His catchword of conquest having been universal brotherhood, he seems bound to face his fraternal duties without so much grimacing.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS AND EXTRADITION.

(Daily Press, September 14th.)

The considered judgment of Mr. F. A. HAZELAND, Magistrate, in the extradition case arising out of the alleged Swatow "rebellion", teems with interesting considerations. Although there are rumours of possible appeals, we presume that until formal notice is given the case is no longer *sub judice*, and that we may venture to comment upon it. The extradition of persons, under our treaty with China, may be a matter of expediency as much as a matter of justice, if we consider our own political interests. It could be very embarrassing for the British administration of a Colony so closely and intimately connected with China, were its hospitality to be abused. Between that consideration and our humane reluctance to hand men over to the cruelty of a judicial system for which we entertain no shred of respect, we find our dilemma, and so it is no wonder that there should be considerable variety of opinion as to the merits of this and similar cases. The Magistrate referred to may have had such issues in his mind, but it is quite clear that in coming to his decision he rigorously banished them. Not expediency, not humane sentiment, but a severely judicial interpretation of the law as it appears to him, is the basis of his decision. His interpretation will come under the criticism of others according as it squares with their notions of expediency or humanity. Without passing any opinion on the merits or demerits of the peculiarly British stipulations in our extradition treaties, embodying our tenderness for political offenders the world over, we may at once proceed to express our opinion that, whether that tenderness be wise or otherwise, the

intention of the law is to give it vent, to protect political offenders, and that Mr. HAZELAND'S definition of what constitutes political offence is not broad enough for the spirit and intention of the law, though it may bring it within the letter as expediency has been in the habit of defining it. Surely it does not need much demonstration that there are numerous genuine political offences possible besides those which happen when there are "two or more parties in the state each seeking to impose the government of their [sic] own choice on the other." Let us take a readily conceivable instance in Russia. Some writer, say Tolstoy, incurs the resentment of the Russian Police Bureau by decrying the corruption of the government. He is not advocating its substitution by another, but its reform. In the course of his denunciation, he uses words which constitute, say, *lèse majesté*, some breach of some Russian law which renders him liable to Siberia. He escapes to London, and his extradition is applied for. Would London give him up, because there did not happen to be "two or more parties in the state each seeking to impose the government of its choice on the other or others"? Or would it say that as a *bona-fide* political offender he was entitled to the protection of the stipulatory clause? Take the story of England's Runnymede, and by a violent effort of imagination, conceive of a repetition of a like incident in China. Put the EMPRESS-DOWAGER in the shoes of King JOHN, with the leading representatives of her people compelling her to sign a Chinese Magna Charta. Imagine then, further, that by some coup d'état, her shrewd Majesty were suddenly to turn the tables on the Chinese Barons, necessitating their hasty flight to Hongkong. They had not endeavoured to depose her and set up a new government; but by a little forceful intimidation had tried to induce the existing government to do the right thing as they saw it. There were not "two or more parties in the state"—then were they not political offenders? We fancy that in such a case, even Mr. HAZELAND would throw CAVE J. aside and refuse extradition. Is the Swatow case really so very different? We do not think so. Here were these sturdy Swatow prototypes of the Runnymede Barons, bringing forceful suasion to bear upon the local representatives of her Peking Majesty to make them give them their rights. Their offences, or crimes if you like, were "incidental to and formed a part of political disturbance," of which, we submit, there was sufficient evidence. That the man immediately concerned was a common, thieving, murdering rascal we find it difficult to believe. Who would find the money for the defence of such an one? On the whole, however inexpedient it would seem to protect such people, we are inclined to think that he was entitled to the sanctuary offered his class by the spirit and intention of our law as it relates to extradition.

One other point occurs to us with which we have omitted to deal. His Worship approvingly quotes, *vis à vis* the suggestion that application for rendition was based upon a charge not *bona fide*, Lord Russell, Chief Justice, who *in re Arton* said:

"It has been pointed out by myself and my learned brothers during the argument that this is in itself a very grave and very serious statement to put forward and one which ought not to be put forward except upon very strong grounds; it conveys a reflection of the gravest possible kind not only upon the motive and actions of the responsible government but also impliedly upon the judicial authorities of a neighbouring and friendly power. Is it open to us at all to consider such a suggestion? In

my judgment it is not and I have already stated the grounds for my opinion. The question bears upon the political aspect of the extradition and it must be determined upon a consideration of matters into which this court is not competent and has no authority to enter. Such considerations if they exist at all must be addressed to the executive of the country and ought not to enter into the judicial consideration of the question which in this case turns solely upon the construction of the extradition act and the treaty."

That may be law, but it certainly is not commonsense. We can admit that such a suggestion should not be made without reasonable grounds, but for the rest, Lord Russell betrayed a singular lack of ordinary human "savvy." It is not a reflection of the "gravest possible kind." None but an uncommonly scrupulous man is going to be aghast at Russia or China if, in their anxiety to get hold of some serious political offender, they adopt some such machiavelian method of getting round the, to them, inexplicable squeamishness of the British where a political offender's fate is concerned. We are not shocked by it, but as commonsense individuals we would keep our eyes open for it, and see to it carefully that our ideas of justice are not so circumvented. In the case of China, as we intimated in opening, we have no shyness about reflecting "impliedly upon the judicial authorities of a neighbouring and friendly power," which seems so shocking a thing to Lord Russell. Lord Russell does not know as much of the Chinese judicial authorities as we do, and we ought to be guided by our local knowledge, and not by the gentlemanly qualms of that eminent jurist. It is not only "open" to us to consider such a suggestion, but our duty to take it up and honestly consider its probability. Lord Russell considered the Court incompetent to review "the political aspect of extradition," yet he allowed it to consider etiquette like that. His concern for due respect to the neighbouring Power and its judiciary was political. What else? He seems to us decidedly inconsistent in referring one political aspect to "the executive of the country," and then consenting to consider another, of less material importance. Still, if he as Chief Justice was obliged to confine his attention to "the construction of the extradition act and the treaty," we respectfully submit that Mr. HAZELAND as Magistrate was not. As a matter of fact, His Worship did look into the suggestion, and his citation of Lord Russell's scruple was quite expetive, for he decides that there was nothing in the evidence to support the assertion that the prisoner was wanted for a political offence. Assuming the correctness of that finding, His Worship's decision was absolutely correct, but with that finding we beg deferentially to disagree.

MORRISON CENTENARY MEETING.

A MEMORABLE ASSEMBLY.

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR.

Seldom has the Theatre Royal been so densely and uncomfortably crowded as it was on Sept. 10 on the occasion of the public meeting held in commemoration of Robert Morrison, the pioneer of Protestant missionary enterprise in China. The hundreds of Chinese who filled the body of the hall and the gallery must have afforded considerable pleasure to those interested in religious work among the natives, but it was surprising, considering the domestic derangements involved by the awkward hour for which the meeting was called—7.30—to find so many Europeans present. These were accommodated on the platform, at the rear of which was

seated a choir of Chinese girls who sang the National Anthem in the vernacular on arrival of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard. They were accompanied by Miss Brackenbury, Mr. Brackenbury (private secretary) and Captain Taylor, A.D.C. There were also on the platform the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. May and the Hon. Mr. Rees Davies (Attorney General). Prayer having been offered up by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A.,

His EXCELLENCY said—We are assembled here this evening to do honour to one who has given his life and his talents to the service of China. Before I proceed with the few remarks which I have to offer to you, I think that it will enable us to get a better sense of proportion and to view the services which Robert Morrison rendered to China in the proper perspective if I glance for a moment at the earlier relations of Europe with China and ask you to remember for a moment his predecessors. It is as long ago as the beginning of the sixth century, some 1400 years ago, that the early Nestorians came to China, being driven from Europe as heretics, and they left their impress on this country in mission work. The first accurate records we have of any mission work in China date from about the beginning of the fourteenth century, and to Italy belongs the credit of having sent the first Catholic missionaries to China in the thirteenth century. These men and their successors carried on the work until about the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Robert Morrison arrived in the field. Sectarian disputes had arisen just before this period, when the orthodox Catholics supported by the Pope, were in antagonism to the more liberal toleration of the Jesuits who were supported by the Emperor Kwangsi. The result was that a prosecution arose and the missionaries were expelled from the country. Just at this moment, when the anti-European feeling was at its height, Robert Morrison came out and landed in 1807 at Canton. So bitter was the feeling at that time that he was compelled shortly afterwards to leave Canton and to go to Macao, where he remained for some years engrossed in literary studies. He did great work in producing an Anglo-Chinese dictionary, until later he was enabled to return to Canton. There among a small circle of followers he devoted himself to literary work until he died in 1834. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I began by saying we were assembled to do honour to the great pioneer and the great founder of missions. In what way is this quiet student in Canton entitled to be called a great pioneer and a great founder of missions then? In my views it was because, first of all, he was the great founder of Protestant missions. He was the man who introduced the British missionary influence into China for the first time, the man who laid down the lines—the broad statesmanlike lines—of the mission policy followed for many years after his death. It was his policy, for instance, at first to limit mission enterprise to the coast ports, not to precipitate entry into the far interior. Secondly, I think the claim is justified because he was the founder of the medical missions. By dispensaries which he opened at Canton he set the example which has developed in later years so prodigiously and most beneficially, and in my opinion—and I have seen mission work in other parts of the world—there is no higher or finer form of missionary enterprise than the medical. As a result the Medical Missions College was founded in 1835 shortly after his death. Thirdly, his claim to our gratitude rests on his great literary work. He was the author of the first great Anglo-Chinese dictionary which has formed the basis of all subsequent works since his day. He established printing presses, translated the whole of the Bible into Chinese, and various tracts, prepared a grammar and translated many works of interest; and he wrote a book on the customs and habits of the Chinese which was the first key to the Chinese habits in Great Britain. His enterprise in this direction resulted in the founding of an Anglo-Chinese school at Malacca by a colleague, Dr. Milner, which later was transferred back to China, and after Hongkong became a British Colony one was founded here. Dr. Morrison stood on the threshold of a new era. His unostentatious

work enabled others to sow where he had reaped. His great literary work enabled others who came after him to enter a door which had been closed to himself, and to build upon foundations which he had laid. I think, ladies and gentlemen, that we all stand on the threshold of a new era. During the one hundred years that are passed since Morrison arrived at Canton we have learned a great deal. We stand amazed at the antiquity of the institutions and the learning of China. We recognise the ability of her leaders; and we recognise the industry and self-control of her vast population; and we watch with increasing interest from day to day the efforts which she is making to realise her ideal. During that one hundred years, although there have been many misunderstandings I think we can claim that no nation has been actuated by more friendly feelings towards China than the British. It is therefore with cordial goodwill that we watch now her efforts to create for herself a position, social, moral and political, among the powers of the earth such as is due to her to put her in her proper place. In that path of progress she can always count upon British sympathy and assistance if she requires it, and where it may be given legitimately and usefully (great applause).

Dr. WAN TUN MO translated His Excellency's remarks which were received with applause.

Mr. FUNG UT T'SUN, the Canton delegate, addressed the meeting. His remarks were translated by the Rev. Mr. Pearce, who said that the speaker pointed out that in order to discern what sort of a man Morrison was and in order to measure his work they must see if they could into his heart. The distinguishing characteristic of Morrison was love of humanity. That love was inspired from above.

The Ven. Archdeacon BANISTER, in his address, said that it was right that the East and the West should with one voice affirm their faith and love—their faith in the principles of Robert Morrison and their love for him and gratitude for his services (applause). In referring to the work of the earlier missionaries he remarked that it was right that they should recognise the works of every kin and every faith if they were only linked to God Himself (applause). Proceeding he referred to the task Morrison set himself in preparing his dictionary, and said that they did not need to go to the battlefield to find the heroic. Men who worked like Morrison showed that heroism was found in other places. Giving figures in exemplification of the fruit of the Morrison college, he mentioned that in Shanghai last year one printing firm sold no less than 1,500,000 worth of Chinese school books, which was a revelation of the demand of the Chinese for the knowledge that had entered from the West. In conclusion he urged the Christians present not to put their faith in the background and appealed to them to cherish the memory of Robert Morrison.

Mr. AU FUNG-CHI in his speech said that Morrison tried to bring about better relations between the East and the West. The speaker referred to the yellow peril, which he asserted had to be met with something white, with the white man's assurance, with the white man's respect. The Chinese were very fond of parallel sentences, and sometimes those parallels had very striking lessons. Against the danger of the yellow peril there would have to be set the guarantee of the white race. If a man loved men, men would love him. If a man respects his fellow men, his fellow men respect him. That sentiment he held to be universally true, and he held it to be applicable to the relations between the East and the West.

Rev. T. W. PEARCE, in translating the above remarks said that the sentiment expressed evoked enthusiasm among the Chinese and he hoped it would be appreciated by those on the platform (applause).

On the motion of Dr. WAN TUN-MO, seconded by the Rev. Mr. PEARCE, a vote of thanks was accorded to His Excellency.

Sir FREDERICK LUGARD in reply said he regarded it as a great pleasure and a great privilege to preside at the meeting, and speaking on behalf of those behind him on the platform he expressed his admiration of the extraordinary exhibitions of memory given by Dr. Wan Tun-mo and the Rev. Mr. Pearce in translating speeches delivered during the course of the evening (applause).

The Rev. Mr. PEARCE expressed their thanks to the management of the City Hall, and the meeting closed with the singing of the 100th Psalm.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, September 6th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

MANY ACTIONS.

No fewer than 26 actions were set down in the list against the Tak Lee Leung, aggregating \$14,777.89. Seven judgments have already been given against the firm amounting in all to \$6,743.97. It will be remembered that the Puisse Judge recently decided that Li Chi Chin was a partner in the firm, and against that decision an appeal is being made to the Full Court.

Mr. Gardiner, who appeared for Li Chi Chin, asked that all the cases be adjourned *sine die* upon his client giving security for the amount of the claims.

His Honour—And the costs?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes.

His Honour—Will you give an undertaking that, in the event of the appeal going against him, he will consent to judgment?

Mr. Gardiner—No. It may be that some of the cases are bogus. We would like a chance of fighting.

His Honour—I am not going to hear the 26 cases. They are all promissory notes.

Mr. Gardiner—It is a question whether the money was lent to the firm or to Lai Hing Pong, the other partner.

His Honour—All right. Monday morning, one after the other.

Monday, September 9th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

LI CHI-CHIN'S AFFAIRS.

The twenty-six actions against Li Chi-chin, as a partner in the Tak Li Lung firm, were taken before his Honour the Puisse Judge yesterday. The total amount claimed was \$14,777.89.

Mr. J. W. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Vett) appeared for the defendant, while the plaintiffs were represented by Messrs. R. A. Harding, F. X. d'Almada e Castro and R. Harding.

Mr. Gardiner asked his Lordship if he would consider an application to adjourn the cases pending the appeal.

His Lordship—Not unless the other parties consent.

Mr. Gardiner—If your Lordship gives judgment against the defendant as a partner in the firm and the appeal succeeds there will be no chance of recovering costs in these cases.

His Lordship—The twenty-six of them won't run away for the sake of \$25 apiece. Supposing you win you get costs on the appeal. You have accepted service for the defendant as a partner in the Tak Li Lung firm?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes, my Lord.

Mr. E. A. Harding—What is his *locus standi* if he is not a partner?

Mr. Gardiner—I admit I am so far as your Lordship has made the order.

The claims were taken separately, and after hearing each case his Lordship entered judgment for plaintiffs and costs, but granted a stay of execution pending the appeal.

CLAIM FOR MONEY LENT.

Action was brought by Lau Wai-cho against Chan Shiu-hin to recover \$510, principal and interest due on money lent. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) for the defendant.

Mr. Dixon applied for an adjournment. The defendant got a message to go to the country, as his mother was dead. They alleged that payments had been made on account of the debt.

Mr. Grist—Why didn't the defendant have the case tried a week ago? He asked for a

week's adjournment and his mother was not dead then.

Mr. Dixon—I applied for that adjournment as I'd only then been instructed.

Plaintiff then gave evidence of the debt.

In cross-examination he stated that the money was lent in the second moon, and no promissory note was made out. He asked for the money in the fifth moon, but as plaintiff could not pay he gave him a promissory note.

His Lordship—There is no endorsement on the promissory note, and the balance has not been paid into Court. \$130 is admitted so far.

Mr. Dixon—We admit owing \$130, but have not paid anything into Court.

Ng Fai, a clerk in the Naval Yard, said he was present at an interview between plaintiff and defendant on July 11th. Plaintiff asked defendant to repay him \$500, saying his brother wanted the money for urgent business in Macao. Defendant had only \$370, but paid plaintiff this amount. He asked plaintiff for a receipt, but none was given as the plaintiff was in a hurry to go to Macao.

Mr. Dixon again asked for an adjournment until the defendant's return, when he would corroborate the evidence of the last witness. Mr. Dixon would also call a woman who would say she heard the plaintiff ask the defendant for the balance of \$130 due.

His Lordship—Where has she gone, to see her mother too?

Mr. Dixon—I was unable to get her to-day.

His Lordship—I cannot grant an adjournment unless you put up security.

Mr. Dixon—But considering the fact that he has left in account of a death.

His Lordship—You've stated so; there is no evidence that he has.

Mr. Dixon—There is no reason to suppose that he has gone away to avoid this action.

His Lordship—Can't you pay up what you owe?

Mr. Dixon—We're not in a position to.

His Lordship gave judgment and costs for the plaintiff.

Tuesday, September 10th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A SHIPPER'S CLAIM.

Dang Chee, Son and Co. sued the owners of the s.s. *Aldenham* to recover the sum of \$103, being the difference between the amount received at auction on 48 bags of flour and plaintiffs' costs on same. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for defendants.

Mr. Goldring said the action was not for a large sum of money, but his clients wished to fight it on principle, and on the facts he would set forth he contended that the shipowners should be liable for these damaged bags of flour. The goods in question were shipped in defendants' ship from Sydney on May 15th, and in the ordinary course a bill of lading was issued. When the goods were received here, and the consignees sent a purchaser on board the ship, it was found that 51 bags of the flour were damaged. The plaintiffs contended, in view of the terms of the bill of lading, that the goods were damaged through the negligence of the shipowners. They were inspected by Mr. G. P. Lammert on behalf of the plaintiffs, and and by Mr. Douglas on behalf of the defendants. Mr. Lammert's report showed that 48 bags were damaged, broken and rusewn. Mr. Goldring would be able to show that this was the first time shipowners had ever refused to make good damage for broken bags of flour. There was an act in the Commonwealth of Australia known as the Sea Carriage of Goods Act, and that act rendered null and void all clauses which were commonly inserted in bills of lading in Australia, and which attempted to relieve the master or shipowners from negligence. As his Lordship knew, the ordinary bill of lading, as a rule, relieved the shipowner from any liability whatever.

His Lordship—It will in time.

Mr. Goldring—Yes, and the Commonwealth of Australia have passed this—which seems to be a very reasonable act—in order that all these

strong clauses against the shipper should be made null and void. In the first place we contend that this act is applicable in this case because the contract was made in New South Wales, and the authorities are very clear on a point of *prima facie* law which governs such a case.

After evidence had been given as to the arrival of the flour, and the inspection of the damaged bags.

Mr. Bailey said that if the plaintiffs contended that the Sea Carriage of Goods Act of the Commonwealth obliterated all the exceptions on the bill of lading, the defendant Company might as well have no bill of lading at all. The contract in the bill of lading was that the Company should ship in good order and condition, subject to certain exceptions. He submitted that when plaintiffs got the goods they behaved in a very extraordinary way. First they refused to take delivery of 51 bags, then they asked to take delivery of the undamaged ones. Even if the plaintiffs had a case they had to prove that the goods were shipped in good order and condition; they would have to show how the damage was done, and they would have to prove that it was done by the defendants.

His Lordship held that no negligence had been proved, and entered judgment for the defendants with costs.

Wednesday, 11th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

"A NOTORIOUS LITIGANT."

Chan Shum sued Chan Kin to recover the sum of \$180, being principal and interest due on money lent on September 19th, 1905. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for the plaintiff, while the defendant appeared in person.

Plaintiff said he was a trader at 48, Central Market. He lent the defendant \$200 for which he received a signed document. The loan was to bear interest at the rate of two per cent. per month. Witness received \$3 on account of principal and \$20 on account of interest on March 16th, 1906, and on July 7th of the same year he received \$45 on account of principal and \$30 on account of interest.

His Lordship—What has the defendant to say?

Defendant—That is what the plaintiff says but I have something to say if your Lordship will allow me.

His Lordship—That's all right. Do you want to ask the plaintiff any questions?

Defendant—Yes. (To plaintiff)—In November 1905 was I not a partner with you in a pork business at 61, Yaumati?—No.

I can prove this by other partners. Was not Chau Wo a partner, and did we not put in a capital of \$500 altogether?—No.

Did not the Registrar-General take back our licence in May last year?—I don't know.

Mr. Goldring—If your Lordship recollects, this man previously admitted owing a certain amount.

His Lordship (to defendant)—What do you owe altogether?—\$69.80.

And why haven't you paid him before?—He did not ask me for it.

He says he has?—I don't know about it.

Did you borrow \$200 from him once?—Yes, but I paid \$50, and that left \$150 for interest to run on.

Did you sign the note produced?—Yes.

Well, how are you going to get behind it now?—I have something more to tell your Lordship. I owed him money and he took over my business for \$60.

I don't care what he did: did you sign that document?—I did.

Very well, kindly tell me why you don't pay up?—I separated—

Never mind that. Have you receipts for any payments?—Yes.

Defendant here produced a paper which he said he received on his last payment, and remarked that plaintiff said he was willing to reduce principal and interest.

His Lordship—That is not a receipt?—It is a stamped document.

What is it for?—\$58.

Mr. Goldring—That is what we admit having received.

His Lordship (to defendant)—How much did you owe him when he gave you a receipt for \$58?—\$90.

Why should he let you off the debt altogether on payment of so small a sum?—Because he knew I was out of work.

His Lordship—Oh! There is much brotherly love among the Chinese. Judgment and costs for plaintiff.

Mr. Goldring—I would ask your Lordship for immediate execution. This man is one of the most notorious litigants in the Colony.

His Lordship—Yes, I know him. The application is granted.

Thursday, September 12th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

DEBTOR RELEASED FROM PRISON.

Re Chan Sui-hon. Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) again applied for the release of the debtor while Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) who represented some of the creditors, appeared to oppose it.

His Lordship (to the Official Receiver)—What do you say, Mr. Kemp?

The Official Receiver—Mr. Dixon is going to call two witnesses.

His Lordship—I don't think it will be necessary. I am going to let the debtor out.

Mr. Bailey—Might I ask your Lordship on what grounds you come to this decision?

His Lordship—Because I don't think he ought to be in: that's all. Is there anything else to be done in this case now?

Mr. Dixon—I understand the Official Receiver does not want to question the debtor further, so I would ask your Lordship to make an adjudication order.

His Lordship made the order and closed the public examination.

THE REMAINING PARTNER.

Re the Fuk Sun Cheong firm.

The Official Receiver continued this public examination.

Chan Sui-shum said he was a partner in the Fuk Sun Cheong firm of pig dealers. He only knew of four other partners. The managing partners left the Colony at the beginning of the second moon, and could not now be found. The other partners had also returned to the country. The firm's assets were about \$9,000 and its liabilities \$13,800. The bankrupt firm sold pigs on behalf of customers, and paid them by bill of exchange or by cash.

His Lordship closed the examination and made an order for adjudication.

HOTEL FAILURES.

This was another public examination, which was conducted by the Official Receiver.

Au Ka-po said he was the proprietor of the Occidental and Baltimore Hotels, and was at one time employed in the Hongkong Hotel for twelve years. After that he went to the Victoria, where he remained for five years. He had a share in the latter hotel. Later he went to the Peak Hotel as compradore, and had a share in that hotel. He leased the Occidental Hotel in May 1903, and ran it for eight months at a loss. Then he transferred it to Mr. Matthaei under a sub-lease. When Mr. Matthaei failed, debtor took over the hotel again; his agreement said he must do so. Twice Mr. Ruttonjee sued him, but it was finally settled that he should carry on the hotel. It was in June 1905 that debtor took over the Hotel Baltimore from Messrs. Price & Co. He paid \$3,000. His failure was due to losses every month on both businesses.

Mr. E. G. Jordan, sworn, said he was the manager of the Occidental and Baltimore Hotels. During witness's management the debtor lost about \$13,000 on the Occidental, and about \$8,000 on the Baltimore. The rent of the Occidental Hotel was a \$1,000 a month, and \$1,300 odd was paid for furniture and fittings; \$2,000 cash was paid for a publican's licence taken over from Matthaei; and \$5,000 to Ruttonjee for rent.

The Official Receiver—Are there any special reasons why the Occidental did not succeed?—I should imagine the business was spoiled by the

present position of the ferry. Another reason which proved itself during my management was the opening of a garrison sergeants' mess right opposite between the Kowloon and Occidental Hotels. Many civilians were made honorary members of this mess.

When did the sergeants' mess open?—About the middle of June.

Of course they could undersell you?—Yes.

Do you know if they got their drinks very cheap?—I couldn't say, but I know the firm serving them were catering for a monopoly of the sergeants' messes. This mess was managed and run by a secretary and a treasurer.

Were they all sergeants you saw there?—No. Two sergeants and one private or corporal. The latter had his coat off assisting.

You didn't see any civilians there?—I saw plenty of people in civilian clothes.

Have you ever seen any privates or corporals there?—I have never seen any in there, but I have seen two served through a window.

Being a club they can sell more cheaply?

—Yes, a glass of beer for which a man pays 20 cents in the Occidental can be had for twelve cents in the sergeants' mess.

Since the opening of this mess have you noticed any difference in your takings?—The takings in the service bar, which is patronised practically by soldiers and sailors, used to be from \$25 to \$35 per day, cash. Since the 19th June, when the mess was opened, they have dropped from \$5 to \$10 a day.

You don't think it is possible, now that the ferry is changed and the mess opened, to run the hotel at a rent of \$2,000, and a licence of \$2,000 a year?—No. And the house is not in fit condition to be run as a hotel.

What state of repair was the place kept in externally?—Very bad. The west end of the roof was always leaking when it rained.

You had some trouble about the drains, didn't you?—Yes, Mr. Ruttonjee occupied the rooms on the top floor of the west end of the hotel, and all the doors leading from the hotel were barred and nailed up, so it was impossible for me to look after the cleanliness of the drains. I called his attention three times to the fact that the drains were choked.

Didn't Ruttonjee do anything to improve them?—Not until I wrote to the Sanitary Board, and they notified him to have the pipes cleaned.

Debtor said he attributed his failure to the hotel businesses being bad, to a falling off of business from Manila, and to the low prices of the Hongkong Hotel. Do you agree with that?—Yes.

The examination was adjourned.

A BANKRUPT IMPRISONED.

Re Leung Ngan-pan *ex parte* the debtor.

This public examination was continued. Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) and Mr. B. Harding, appeared on behalf of certain creditors.

Mr. Looker said the chief object of the question he was instructed to ask the debtor was to see whether or not he had committed an offence under section 82 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance subsection O.

His Lordship—That is for a jury to find. I am not going to send any man to jail unless he has been tried.

Mr. Looker—If your Lordship thinks an offence has been committed—

His Lordship—Then I can order a prosecution, but I am quite against summary procedure. I let a man out this morning.

Mr. Looker—It may be necessary that a jury should decide, but it is also clear your Lordship has power, if you think there is an offence, to order the debtor to be committed to prison now. We say the debtor has omitted an important part of his property from his statement of affairs, in that he is considered to have certain property in Canton. The section under which your Lordship has power to arrest him at once is section 24, subsection E.

His Lordship—Under that I let a man out this morning.

Mr. Looker—Hitherto the practice has been—

His Lordship—Not hitherto. Only for a short time—about two years.

Mr. Looker—Our Ordinance differs materially from the Ordinance at home.

His Lordship—That section is the same.

Mr. Looker—Yes, but in other respects it differs. Then, of course, under section 84 your Lordship can order a prosecution.

His Lordship—That's another point.

Leung Ngan-pan was then examined, by Mr. Looker. He said he dealt in goods himself and also on commission. When he purchased goods for export to other places he mostly purchased them himself. When he shipped goods from the Colony it was his practice to draw on the bank. With this money he paid debts, or put the money out at interest. When the time came to pay the person from whom he bought goods he sometimes used the money received from the bank; sometimes he used it for other purposes. He had had many transactions in sugar with the Yuen Fat Hong, but did not always pay cash on delivery. This year it had generally been ready cash, but not so last year although he could not remember the dates when he obtained it on credit.

Do you know Lau Ching-po of the Yuen Fat Hong?—Yes.

Did you hear him say at the Police Court he never gave you sugar on credit?—He was speaking falsely.

Debtor, continuing, said he took delivery of 389 baskets of sugar on June 14th, and payment was due on the 28th or 29th. Two days after he took delivery he hypothecated it to the bank, and gave the money to the French Bank. On June 23rd he saw Lau Ching-po at his shop. The latter asked for payment and debtor said he would pay him next day. On the 24th he filed his bankruptcy petition. On May 26th debtor bought 1,000 bags of rice from the Kwok Tak Pat. This he got on credit, took delivery of a number of bags which he shipped out of the Colony, drew on the bank and paid some debts with the money, but did not pay in to the Kwok Tak Pat. He also got a quantity of rice from the Shun Tak Fung, but did not pay them. On June 9th he bought 500 bags from the Tak Cheung firm on credit of them, took delivery on the following day and shipped the rice to Shanghai. He drew on the bank but did not pay the Tak Cheung. He also obtained money on rice obtained from the Ma Fat Yee, but had not paid the said firm for the rice. Debtor also obtained various quantities of rice and sugar from other firms enumerated, but in no instance had he paid for it. He always paid previous debts with the money obtained from the bank.

Now then, do you remember telling us just now that you bought 1,000 bags of rice from Man Fat Hong on June 13th?—Yes.

That was for cash on delivery?—No.

This is the contract is it not? Read it! Debtor reads.

Now, it is a cash transaction is it not?—But the custom is to allow from a week to ten days for payment, and that is considered as cash.

Yes, but if they like to ask before the end of the week they are entitled to do so?—It can be done, but it is never done.

His Lordship—He is setting up a custom.

Mr. Looker—All these goods I have asked you about were sent to the Fat Hing firm in Shanghai?—Yes.

Have they paid you?—Not in full.

Anything?—They still owe me some \$50,000 odd.

Do you mean to tell me they have paid you anything at all?—I have a running account with the Fat Hing and each lot of goods is not ear marked.

The Fat Hing is the same firm as your own, is it not?—No.

Have not you got their signboard outside your shop?—It is only hung there because I act for them.

Who is the man who owns the Fat Hing?—My son and some of his friends have shares in it.

And your son manages it?—He is the manager.

Where is he now?—In Shanghai.

Is the shop still going?—No, it closed somewhere about June 25th.

His Lordship—The son followed the good example of his father!

Mr. Looker—You filed your petition the day before the Fat Hing closed; is that right?—Yes.

Did you go to see one, Wong Tak Cheung, on the Sunday before you presented your petition?—Yes.

And did you tell him he needn't be afraid about remarks as to your solvency?—I told him not to be afraid because of my not paying people. I would try to put matters right and pay the creditors.

Have you disclosed in your statement of affairs all your property?—Yes, I have.

Have you enclosed in it your share in the estate of Leung U-shung deceased, in Canton?—That's not mine.

The widow of deceased advertised in a Chinese paper that you had a share in that property?—It's not true.

His Lordship—The money you raised on each of these purchases you paid a former debt with?—Generally.

Mr. Looker—Robbing Peter to pay Paul. Mr. Harding and the Official Receiver then questioned debtor, after which.

Mr. Looker submitted that apart from the question of fraud, which was one for a jury, the debtor had entirely brought himself within subsections P and Q.

His Lordship—I don't quite see what you want me to do.

Mr. Looker—Your Lordship can do two things. You can either now cause him by warrant to be arrested because you think it is probable he has committed an offence; if it appears to your Lordship there is reason to suppose he is guilty of the offence we say he is, your Lordship may order his prosecution.

His Lordship—My own opinion is that if you want to get him you'd get him better on a charge of perjury, but that you will have to prove.

Mr. Looker—Our difficulty is that we have no counsel here.

His Lordship—But you will have to start at the Police Court. By that time Mr. Calthrop will probably be back. I am not going to direct a prosecution, but I have not the slightest objection to order a warrant for his arrest for a week, but I won't keep him through the vacation. I think a week will be time enough to enable you to make up your mind.

The Official Receiver—They have prosecuted him already.

His Lordship—And they failed.

Mr. Looker—But we did not prosecute him for a bankruptcy offence.

His Lordship—You prosecuted him for obtaining money by false pretences; that's the same thing.

Mr. Looker—We prosecuted him under the Debtors' Act for obtaining credit by fraud.

His Lordship ordered that a warrant be issued for the debtor's arrest, and that he be imprisoned for one week. He also closed the public examination and adjudicated the debtor bankrupt.

Friday, September 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

LI CHI-CHIN'S AFFAIRS.

The matter of Li Chi-chin was again mentioned. It will be remembered that his Lordship held this defendant to be a partner in the Tak Li Lung firm, and as such 26 judgments were entered against him, and on the application of his solicitor, Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett), execution stayed pending appeal.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, who appeared for some of the plaintiffs, informed his Lordship that security had been submitted to the Registrar and he was considering it.

Mr. R. A. Harding, also representing a number of plaintiffs, asked that the security be put up in cash, not in guarantees. He understood the defendant had effected a sale of certain property this week, and had the proceeds.

His Lordship—That is a question to go and argue with the Registrar.

Mr. Almada—Will your Lordship fix a time for the Registrar to get the security?

His Lordship—I can't fix a time for the Registrar to make up his mind. You'd better go and see him, and bring the matter up in Chambers. There are two more cases to-day I see.

Mr. R. Harding—Yes, my Lord, and I appear for the plaintiffs.

The amount these two plaintiffs sought to recover was \$1,008.62. Both proved their claims, and judgment was entered for each with costs, and as in the other cases, execution stayed pending the appeal.

Mr. Gardiner informed his Lordship that security would be given to cover these two cases.

His Lordship—Let's go into original now.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

BROTHERS IN COURT.

Li Po-lung sued Li Pak to recover the sum of \$10,597.26, being money paid by plaintiff for defendant at his request, and interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. In this case, and in the succeeding two, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared for the plaintiff, the defendants being absent and without representatives.

Li Po-lung stated that on January 17th, 1905, his brother borrowed the amount claimed from the Bank of Taiwan, and he became surety. The money had not been repaid.

His Lordship gave judgment and costs for the plaintiff.

In the second action Li Po-lung claimed from the Luk Yeung Wo Kee Bank and Li Kee-tong the sum of \$21,353.45 due on a bill of exchange which plaintiff paid on behalf of the defendant. On plaintiff swearing that none of this amount had been repaid, his Lordship gave judgment and costs for him.

In a third action against the Luk Yeung Wo Kee and Li Pak, plaintiff deposed to paying an amount of \$23,181.54 at the request of his brother. This amount was still due and owing.

His Lordship entered judgment and costs for plaintiff.

THE DES VŒUX ROAD MURDER.

ONE MAN EXECUTED.

On September 11th one of the three men sentenced to death for the murder of a foreman in Messrs. Watson's Aerated Water Factory was hanged at Victoria Gaol. As usual nothing was learned of the occurrence until after it had taken place, the announcement of the death inquiry for yesterday afternoon being the first intimation that the sentence had been carried out.

In the afternoon Mr. F. A. Hazeland conducted an inquiry touching the death of Tam Pin alias Tam Tak, and Messrs. J. A. Tarrant, D. L. Gubbay and J. W. Sloyer composed the jury.

Mr. E. J. Pierpont, chief warder, said that deceased was received into Victoria Gaol under sentence of death on August 20th. The sentence was carried out at two minutes past five yesterday morning in presence of the Assistant Superintendent of the Gaol (Mr. R. J. Craig), Dr. Moore, witness, and the usual escort. Witness produced the warrant for the execution.

Dr. Moore, medical officer in charge of Victoria Gaol, who was present at the execution, stated that death was instantaneous. He made a post mortem examination of the body and found that death was caused by dislocation of the neck.

The jury found that death was due to dislocation of the neck in the due course of law.

It is apparent that as only one man has been executed, the death sentence passed upon the other two has been commuted.

ADSETTS.

We understand that during the last few days witnesses who are to give evidence in connection with the extradition proceedings for the return of Adsett to this Colony have been in attendance at the office of the Crown Solicitor. Their number is said to be between 20 and 30. Adsett, as has been reported, is to be taken to Manila by the U.S.S. *Galveston*, so in all probability the *de bene esse* evidence of these witnesses will be forwarded to that city.

THE EXTRADITION CASE.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland on Sept. 12 at the Magistrate's gave his decision in the case in which the Chinese Government applied for the extradition of Lu Kai Shing on a charge of armed robbery. Mr. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, appeared in support of the application, while Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the defendant.

His Worship said—The defendant was brought before me under the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889, charged with the commission of the crime of armed robbery committed within the jurisdiction of China. The facts of the case were as follows:—On the morning of the 17th April, 1907, at 1.30 a.m., the defendant and thirteen or fourteen others broke into the family house of one Ng Pai, situate at Ha Yun village, in the Yan Ping district, Kwongtung province, China. The defendant and these thirteen or fourteen men were all armed. Whilst they were in the house the defendant shot and killed Ng Pai. The defendant and these thirteen or fourteen men took away from the house that night 200 pieces of clothing, jewellery to the value of about \$1,500, and over \$700 in money.

The defence set up was that of an *alibi* and also that the requisition for the surrender of the defendant has been made with a view to try and punish him for an offence of a political character. Section 10 of the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889, is as follows:—"If, at the hearing before a Magistrate, such evidence is produced as would, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, justify the committal of the fugitive criminal for trial at the Supreme Court if the crime of which he is accused had been committed in the Colony, the Magistrate shall commit him to Victoria Gaol to await the further order of the Governor, but otherwise shall order him to be discharged."

The provision as to when a magistrate is to discharge or commit an accused is contained in Section 76 of the Magistrates' Ordinance, 1890. The Section is as follows:—"When all the evidence offered on the part of the prosecution against the accused has been heard, if the Magistrate is of opinion that it is not sufficient to put the accused upon his trial for an indictable offence, the Magistrate shall forthwith order the accused, if in custody, to be discharged as to the information then under inquiry; but if, in the opinion of the Magistrate, such evidence is sufficient to put the accused upon his trial for an indictable offence, or if the evidence given raises a strong or probable presumption of the guilt of the accused, then the Magistrate shall, by his warrant, commit him to prison to be there safely kept until he shall be there delivered by due course of law or admit him to bail as hereinbefore mentioned."

The above Section is identical with Section 25 of the Statute 24 and 25, Victoria c. 42, an Act of Parliament commonly known as Jervis's Act. On page 898 of Oke's Magisterial Synopsis the author publishes in a footnote the practice to be followed as to when Justices are to discharge or commit an accused under Section 25 of Jervis's Act. The footnote is as follows:—"In *Cox v Coleridge* (L. B. and C. 50). Mr. Justice Bayley observed: 'I think that a Magistrate is clearly bound, in the exercise of a sound discretion not to commit anyone unless a *prima facie* case is made out against him by a witness entitled to a reasonable degree of credit. Justices ought not, therefore, to balance the evidence and decide according as it preponderates, for this would, in fact, be taking upon themselves the functions of a petty jury, and be trying the case, but they should consider whether or not evidence makes out a strong or probable, or even a conflicting case of guilt; in any one of which cases they should commit the accused to trial. If, however, from the slender nature of the evidence, the unworthiness of the witnesses, or the conclusive proof of innocence produced on the part of the accused, they feel that the case is not sustained, and that if they sent it for trial he must be acquitted, they should discharge the accused.'"

In the present case, went on his Worship, the evidence in my opinion raises a strong

presumption of the guilt of the accused. I now come to the defence set up that the requisition was made with a view to try and punish him for an "offence of a political character." Section 4, sub-sections 1 and 3 of the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889, are as follows:— Sub-section 1 "A fugitive criminal shall not be surrendered if the offence in respect of which his surrender is demanded is one of a political character or if he proves, to the satisfaction of the magistrate or of a judge of the Supreme Court, if brought before the court on a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, or of the Governor, that the requisition for his surrender has in fact been made with a view to try or punish him for an offence of a political character or for an offence which is not an extradition crime." Sub-section 3—"A fugitive criminal shall not in any case be surrendered unless an engagement is given by the Chinese Government that he shall not, until he has been restored or had an opportunity of returning to Her Majesty's dominions be detained or tried in China for an offence committed before his surrender other than the extradition crime on which the surrender is demanded."

There is no provision in the Treaty of Tientsin of 1858 with respect to political offenders but section 4, sub-section 3, of the Ordinance affords absolute protection to political offenders, subjects of China, from rendition. It is moreover a principle of international law that a prisoner whose extradition has been obtained can not be tried for any crime but that mentioned in the demand for surrender. This principle is now incorporated into every extradition treaty and affords absolute protection to political offenders. In Sir Edward Clarke's Treatise Upon the Law of Extradition there is the following note on "political offences" at page 257 of the Appendix: "With regard to political offences there is no great difficulty. It should be provided that no surrender should be granted except on the declaration of the Minister of the foreign power that the fugitive is wanted for trial for the offence charged in the depositions used against him and no other. If treaties are made, there are abundant models for a clause which would protect political offenders from rendition."

As to the present case there is no evidence before me to warrant my coming to the conclusion that the requisition for extradition is made with a view to punish the defendant for an offence of a political character. The suggestion by the defence that the requisition was really not made to punish defendant for an armed robbery but for an offence of a political character amounts to an allegation that the said demand for extradition was not made in good faith nor in the interests of justice. Apart from the fact that there was nothing in the evidence to support such a suggestion it was decided in *re Arton* (1896, 1 Q. B. 108), that such an allegation enters into the political aspect of extradition and it is not competent for a court of law to consider the matter. The decision of Lord Russell, C.J., in *re Arton* on this point is as follows: "I now come to the third and last ground upon which the rule has been moved that the demand for extradition is not made in good faith and in the interests of justice. It has been pointed out by myself and my learned brothers during the argument that this is in itself a very grave and very serious statement to put forward and one which ought not to be put forward except upon very strong grounds; it conveys a reflection of the gravest possible kind not only upon the motive and actions of the responsible government but also impliedly upon the judicial authorities of a neighbouring and friendly power. Is it open to us at all to consider such a suggestion? In my judgment it is not and I have already stated the grounds for my opinion. This question bears upon the political aspect of extradition and it must be determined upon a consideration of matters into which this court is not competent and has no authority to enter. Such considerations if they exist at all must be addressed to the executive of the country and ought not to enter into the judicial consideration of the question which in this case turns solely upon the construction of the extradition act and the treaty."

What are the circumstances proved with regard to the disturbances which the defendant alleges to be of a political character? Shortly

after the defendant's arrest in Hongkong and after the usual caution was administered to him he made the following statement:—"I did not commit armed robbery. It is because that on the eleventh day of the fourth moon at Chiu Chau in the Yam Ping district magistrates' city there was a rebellion as rice was dear. The officials did not do their duty properly. The Kap Ping tong fought with the mandarins. I am arrested and accused of fighting with the mandarins. Chan Hung Sing led us people to fight with the mandarins." The defendant was put in the witness box and made inter alia the following statement:—"I know that a rising took place at Wong Kong in the Yam Ping district. I was second head man who got up this rebellion. The cause of this rebellion was that rice was very dear and scarce in that part and had been so for about a year. The authorities knew this the whole time and would not take any steps to make the rice any cheaper. They knew well the laws and duties cast upon them in cases of this kind. They simply ignored the people and let them starve. Members of the Reform Party were imprisoned for armed robbery." Witness then described the fighting which took place. His party also captured the city of Wong Kong but eventually dispersed as they were short of rations. The defendant also stated in cross-examination that in this rebellion they had no idea of doing anything except to punish the local mandarins. The defendant also stated he was a member of the Reform Party.

What is the meaning of the expression "an offence of a political character?" The definition given in Stephens' History of the Criminal Law of England, Volume 2 page 70, is the one which was adopted by the court (Denman J., Hawkins J., and Stephens J.) in the well known and leading case of *in re Castioni* (1891, 1 Q. B. 149). The following is the definition given at page 70 of Stephens' History of the Criminal Law: What is the meaning of the expression "an offence . . . of a political character?" There are three senses which might naturally be given to the expression standing alone. The first and most obvious sense is an offence consisting in an attack upon the political order of things established in the country where it is committed. High treason, riots for political purposes, crimes like the offences defined by the treason-felony act of 1848, seditious libels and conspiracies are instances of offences of this class. It is, however, difficult to interpret the expression in this sense because none of the crimes referred to are extradition crimes. As therefore they are not within the rule, it seems difficult to suppose that the exception was intended to apply to them.

The second sense in which the expression "political offence" can be used is any offence committed in order to obtain any political object. The exception thus interpreted would cover all crimes committed under the orders of any secret political society, such for instance as assassination, arson, robbery, or forgery. It is monstrous to suppose that this interpretation can be the true one. To take an illustration which can hardly give offence in the present day, it would have protected the wretch Fieschi, whose offence consisted in shooting down many persons in the streets of Paris in an attempt to murder Louis Philippe.

The third meaning which may be given to the words, and which I take to be the true one, is somewhat more complicated than either of those I have described. An act often falls under several different definitions. For instance in a civil war were to take place, it would be high treason by levying war against the queen. Every case in which a man was shot in action would be murder; whenever a house was burnt for military purposes, arson would be committed; to take cattle, by requisition would be robbery. According to the common use of language, however, all such acts would be political offences, because they would be incidents in carrying on a civil war. I think, therefore, that the expression in the Extradition Act ought (unless some better interpretation of it can be suggested) to be interpreted to mean that fugitive criminals are not to be surrendered for extradition crimes if those crimes were incidental to and formed a part of political disturbances. I do not wish to enter into details beforehand on a subject which might at any moment come under judicial consideration, and which, whenever it does so,

will probably involve questions as delicate as they are important, but the suggestions made above arise upon the face of the enactment."

In order to constitute an "offence of a political character" there must be two or more parties in the state each seeking to have the government in its hands. The decision of Denman J. in *re Castioni* on this point is as follows: "I think that in order to bring the case within the words of the Act and to exclude extradition for such an act as murder which is one of the extradition offences it must at least be shown that the act is done in furtherance of, done with the intention of assistance, as a sort of overt act in the course of acting in a political matter, a political rising or a dispute between two parties in the state as to which is to have the government in its hands, before it can be brought within the meaning of the words used in the Act." The decision Cave J. in the case of *in re Meunier* (1894, 2 Q. B. 415) on this point is as follows:—"It appears to me that in order to constitute an offence of a political character there must be two or more parties in the state each seeking to impose the government of their own choice on the other, and if the offence is committed by one side or the other in pursuance of that object it is a political offence, otherwise it is not." In the present case there were not two parties in the state each seeking to impose the government of their own choice on the other. I am therefore of opinion that the rising or disturbance in which the defendant was concerned cannot be described as "an offence of a political character," within the meaning of the words used in the Chinese Extradition Ordinance 1889. The defendant will, therefore, be committed to Victoria Gaol to await the further order of His Excellency the Governor.

HONGKONG HOTEL COLLAPSE.

INQUIRY REGARDING THE DEATHS.

The inquiry into the cause of death of a native who was killed in the collapse which occurred at the old section of the Hongkong Hotel on the 1st ultimo, was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and Messrs. J. D. Morrison, H. L. Muhl and F. E. McHugh, jurors, at the Magistracy on September 6th.

Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Government; Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, represented the Hongkong Hotel Co., and Mr. M. J. D. Stephens watched the case on behalf of Messrs. Kuhn and Komor.

Mr. G. Blood was again called. He said the dead load the pillars would have to carry would be about 140 lb. to the square foot. The total load each pillar would have to carry was calculated at forty tons. It was impossible to say what the crushing weight would be. Previous to the collapse the hotel had been fitted with electric lifts. These started running the day before the collapse. They caused practically no vibration. The engine room was in the old part of the building, north of the collapse. It caused vibration, but not to any great extent. In the middle of July last a partition wall at the rear of Kuhn and Komor's shop was taken down. The removal of this wall did not weaken the building. On the afternoon of the collapse, shoring was being erected, not removed. Witness was superintending it.

By Mr. Looker—There were quite a number of blue brick pillars in the Colony supporting two stories. Some of them had been in existence from twenty to forty years. In the old days it was customary to build the first floor and walls of buildings with blue brick. There were quite a number of Chinese houses existing with blue brick walls carrying three stories. The quality of blue bricks varied considerably; the best quality would be better than red brick. Blue bricks were not much used in Hongkong now. It was not permissible under the Building Ordinance to build pillars and walls of blue brick if there was a storey above. This had been the case since 1902.

What did you mean last time when you said the present pillars were architecturally wrong?—I meant, wrong according to present day standards.

By present day standards do you refer to the standards of the Building Ordinance?—Yes.

Proceeding, witness said there were many blue bricks in the Colony perfectly good after having been in use for many years. He examined the blue bricks forming the pillars of the collapsed portion, and found them much better than the average quality of blue bricks one sees nowadays. Parts of the blue bricks came away loose, but the majority came down in big blocks. He took the crack which he saw in pillar No. 4 to be an old one because there was dirt inside it, and the edges were smoothed off. Witness had had large experience in forming an opinion as to cracks in brickwork, as he constantly met with them in the course of his business. So far as he could judge the crack was at least one, two or five years old. The work being carried out in the northern portion of the building could not possibly affect the stability of the collapsed portion. The main walls of the collapsed portion of the building were composed of blue brick. The shock of the collapse would put a severe strain on those walls. Witness had inspected them and they showed no signs of strain. The two pillars which were being rebuilt had to carry fifty per cent. more weight than the other pillars along the verandah. This was on account of brick arches carrying wooden floors running across from the east wing to the main building. The shoring which was being carried out under the north portion of the verandah which did not collapse, was being done in an effective manner. In fact, it could not have been carried out in a more effective manner. Since the last hearing, witness examined pillar No. 6. It did not appear to have been broken off in a different way to the rest of the pillars. No electric lift had been inserted in the east wing where the collapse took place. Any vibration caused by working the engines in the main building would not cause any extra strain to be put on the pillars of the east wing of the building. There was a thunderstorm at the time of the collapse. During such storms buildings were subject to perceptible tremors, and these were calculated to try their stability. He thought the thunderstorm which occurred at the time of the collapse was a factor in causing the fall of the pillar.

By Mr. Morrell—In any circumstances witness would not have built the pillars of blue brick. Witness had not yet furnished his annual report.

Mr. B. L. Frost said he was an employee in the Telegraph Co. and lived in the old portion of the Hongkong Hotel. On the evening of the collapse witness was in his room. Three or four minutes before the collapse he was at a friend's room on the fourth floor of the east wing. There was a thunderstorm and he noticed a flash of lightning immediately prior to the collapse. Then he heard the sound of the collapse within a few seconds.

Mr. Morrell—Do I understand you to infer the building was struck by lightning?—Not at all.

Mr. T. L. Perkins, executive engineer in the Public Works Department, stated that it was part of his duty to approve plans for alterations to buildings. The plan for certain alterations to the Hongkong Hotel was submitted in May, and approved by witness after an inspector had visited the premises and reported. The alterations were to erect concrete floor and roof over the east area and Kuhn and Komor's shop. On the night of the collapse witness went to the hotel and took charge of the shoring. Several times since then he had examined the scene of the collapse. The great portion of the debris came down in large lumps, but some of it came down separately. The inference to be drawn from the fact that it came down in large lumps was that the pillars were well built. Witness had seen a great many collapses, especially in Hongkong. In seventy-five per cent. of the cases the bricks would separate. He counted and examined all the beams that fell. Less than eight per cent. were not eaten. This was a small percentage. Witness had seen the remains of the collapsed pillars. No. 6 did not appear to have broken in its weakest point. It occurred to witness when he saw it that the workmen might have cut into it for some purpose or other. The measurement of the pillars reported to him was one foot ten inches by one foot ten, giving an area of 184 square inches.

A weight of 120 lbs. was bearing on every square inch of the pillars. The average crushing strength of blue bricks was 1400 lbs. to the square inch; maximum strength, 1750 lbs. and minimum 1150 lbs. to the square inch. Witness would not have used the shoring Mr. Blood said was used. Even with the best Chinese shoring he would put a needle under the cap. The shoring was up to the average, and was the usual kind used here.

By Mr. Looker—The crushing strains witness gave were obtained from the Cement Works.

The inquiry was adjourned to enable the jurors to visit the scene of the collapse.

The inquiry into the cause of death of a native who was killed in the collapse which occurred at the old section of the Hongkong Hotel on the 1st ultimo, was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and Messrs. J. D. Morrison, H. L. Muhle and F. E. McHugh, jurors, at the Magistracy on September 9th.

Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Government; Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon Looker and Deacon) represented the Hongkong Hotel Co., and Mr. M. J. D. Stephens watched the case on behalf of Messrs. Kuhn and Komor.

Mr. T. L. Perkins, recalled at the request of Mr. Looker, said that when he said last week he would have put a needle through the shoring he meant that if erecting the shoring he would have put in a needle to support the cap. What he would have done was that he would have taken away two courses of brick sufficient to insert a needle. Witness explained with detail how he would put the needle through the pillar. Underneath the needle was the prop. So long as the shoring was propped up in a proper manner it did not matter whether there was a needle or not. The propping up was done as well as it was usually done in China. He did not see the pillars while they were being cut out and propped. Witness had only to go upon the reports of his inspector as to the state of the pillars. It was necessary to put a needle in any form of shoring.

His Worship—Under any circumstances you would have put in a needle?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Looker—Is your opinion as to what constitutes a proper shoring based on the practice in England or in the Colony?

Witness—Both.

Mr. Morrell—May I ask for whom my friend appears. I understood he was appearing for the Hotel Company and now he is cross-examining for the architect?

Mr. Looker—You can impute what motives you like. I have already told the Court for whom I am appearing.

Mr. Morrell—I must object to the continuation of this. The cross-examination has already been closed.

His Worship—Any more questions?

Mr. Looker—I have one or two questions to ask. Witness said that Chinese shoring was universal in the Colony.

Is it any part of the duty of the Public Works Department to inspect the shoring of buildings?—I believe, your Worship, shoring has to be done to the satisfaction of the Public Works Department.

The Chinese method of shoring has been adopted in the Colony for many years without the Public Works Department objecting?—It was no use objecting.

You said you yourself expressed dissatisfaction some months ago?—Yes.

Mr. W. T. Edwards, P.W.D. overseer, said that on 29th May last plans for certain alterations in the Hongkong Hotel were approved and on inspecting the place he noticed shoring under pillars eight and nine. He examined the shoring which was of the ordinary Chinese character. He examined the east wing which seemed in good condition.

Did you find a crack in pillar No. 4?—No. You visited the place again on July 23rd?—Yes.

Did you examine all the pillars again?—Yes. And you noticed no cracks?—No.

Mr. Looker—You went to see that the work was being carried out in accordance with the plans. You are not concerned with the rest of the building?—No. Only with the work being carried out.

Witness—The plans show no work to be carried out in the first six pillars counting from the Queen's Road end.

Mr. A. Shelton Hooper said he was secretary of the Hongkong Land Investment Coy. He remembered the evening of the 1st August when there was a collapse in the Hongkong Hotel. About 20 minutes to six he was in the Hongkong Club near a window overlooking the Queen's Statue.

Did you see any lightning?—I did. I saw a very vivid flash of lightning right over the Queen's Statue.

Did it extend over the direction of the hotel?—It was further back than Lane Crawford's—in the direction of the hotel.

Did it strike you as being an ordinary flash or an extraordinary one?—It was particularly vivid. As a matter of fact I called the attention of the Public Works Department to it as a possible explanation.

Mr. Morrell—How much further back was the flash from Lane Crawford's building?

Witness—I cannot say.

Could you say in what particular place it struck?—Well, within a certain area.

How can you tell?—You can tell when seeing it on your horizon.

Oh, it was on the horizon?—Yes.

It might be miles off?—No you can tell within a distance. As far as the width is concerned you can tell within yards.

What do you mean by yards?—You can see between two points.

You cannot tell how far away it was?—No.

You know that an electric lift has recently been installed in the hotel?—Yes.

You think an electric lift in the building would cause vibration?—I am not an expert.

You are an expert, aren't you?—Yes. I am a civil engineer.

Give us your opinion as an expert?—If you wish my opinion as an expert, I will do my best for you.

Vibration is caused by electric lifts in most buildings?—Yes.

Mr. Looker briefly addressed the jury pointing out that in the evidence there had been no reflection on the stability of the building.

Mr. Morrell followed with a few remarks, in which he said that he could not see how the jury could arrive at any other verdict than death by misadventure.

His Worship said if they were not prepared to return such a verdict the only other one open to the jury was one of negligence which must be so gross a description as to amount to recklessness.

The jury found that the deceased met his death by misadventure.

This closed the inquiry.

SMUGGLING ARMS.

It is understood that there is a fairly large illicit trade carried on in the outer parts of the Colony in the smuggling of arms and ammunition into China, but occasionally the smugglers fall into the hands of the police and when they are brought before the Magistrate they lose a considerable margin of their profits. Yesterday Inspector Dymond from Aberdeen had five men before Mr. Hazeland charged with offences under the Ordinance which prohibits the smuggling of arms and ammunition. Three of the junkmen were convicted of exporting muskets and ammunition to China and fined \$150 each, while the other two were found guilty of having arms and ammunition on their junks without a permit and were fined \$75 each. On Friday last two men were fined \$100 each for like offences. Big profits are made in this business, breechloaders as a rule being preferred to muskets for the export trade.

The post office on the summit of Fuji is under direct control of the Yokohama Post Office. It has been opened since the 16th July. The telephone line from the top is opened on August 1st. There are souvenir post cards on sale. The Fuji Hotel at the same eighth station, being built by the Yamanashi Prefecture authorities with Y.2,500 is now expected to be opened at the end of this month. At present about one hundred persons are climbing Fuji daily on the average from each approach.

FRENCH STREET MURDER.

Two men, Kwok Chiu and Tse On, coolies, were placed on trial at the Magistracy on Sept. 10 before Mr. F. A. Hazeland. They were charged with the murder of Lam Tsoi, a carpenter, who resided at 258, Des Vœux Road, on 27th August, in French Street, West Point. The other two defendants were discharged. Inspector Collett prosecuted.

Mr. Frank Brown, Government analyst, spoke to having examined the jacket belonging to deceased which was blood-stained. He also received a knife from Sergt. Gordon but it was quite clean, having recently been scoured.

Inspector Collett produced a bottle of water in which he thought possibly the knife had been cleaned, but witness said the liquid showed no traces of blood.

Dr. Heanley, medical officer in charge of the public mortuary, said that on the 28th August he examined the dead body of a Chinese male adult, aged about 30. There were seven wounds on the body. One measured over an inch in length. It was over the centre of the right collar bone. The wound went downwards and backwards for four and a half inches. There were four wounds on the back. Of the other two wounds one was four and a half inches deep and the other seven inches deep. Death was due to hemorrhage and asphyxia caused by the second wound. He did not think the knife produced could have inflicted the wounds.

Mr. H. Goldsmith of the P.W.D. produced a plan of French Street.

A native who was called spoke to seeing the deceased in Des Vœux Road on the night in question. He also saw the accused. He knew that ill feeling had existed between him and accused for some time.

Inspector Collett said the quarrel arose over a singing girl who went over from the defendants' club to that of which deceased was a member. A fight was arranged between the two clubs and the members from both turned out on the 27th ult. As the defendants' party returned to Chek-ton-sui they came upon the opposition clan and chased them down a certain street. Deceased was set upon by several and stabbed.

The interpreter gave formal evidence after which the hearing was adjourned.

The hearing of the charge of murder against the two men, Kwok Chiu and Tse On, was continued at the Magistracy on September 11th before Mr. F. A. Hazeland. They were charged with the murder of Lam Tsoi, a carpenter, who resided at 258, Des Vœux Road, on 27th August, in French Street, West Point. Inspector Collett prosecuted.

Sergt. Gordon stated that on August 27th he was on duty near the junction of French Street and Queen's Road West, and hearing a noise in French Street, proceeded in that direction and came upon the body of the deceased. He was dead. A stream of blood was running from the body. On examination witness noticed six stab wounds in the back of the deceased and one stab under the right eye. Next day he was present at the mortuary when the body was identified as that of Lam Tsoi. The defendants were arrested in a house at West Point. The first defendant was sitting on a bed and a Chinese constable pulled the second defendant from underneath the bed. Witness afterwards searched the room and found the knife produced in a mat bag hanging on the wall. When arrested, the first defendant had a stab wound on the back of his left hand. The nineteen sticks produced were found underneath the bed, another stick which was submitted to the Government analyst being found in the bag.

A blacksmith said he knew the two defendants. He was aware that a quarrel had arisen between the club of which deceased was a member and that of which the accused were members. On the 27th August, about 10 p.m., witness saw the deceased in the company of several men. They walked about for half an hour, and when they were coming back along Queen's Road deceased was in front at the junction of Queen's Road and Water Street. Somebody in another company of men called out. This crowd stopped and several of the men who composed it attacked the deceased, who with witness ran off. When they got to the junction of French Street and Queen's Road witness saw a man stab deceased,

who gave a cry and fell to the ground. The first defendant was the man who stabbed the deceased. Witness continued to run and on looking over his shoulder saw he was being pursued by the second defendant.

Other witnesses were called who gave corroborative evidence, and the case was adjourned.

The hearing of the charge of murder against the two men, Kwok Chiu and Tse On, was continued at the Magistracy on Sept 12 before Mr. F. A. Hazeland. They were charged with the murder of Lam Tsoi, a carpenter, who resided at 258, Des Vœux Road, on 27th Aug st, in French Street, West Point. Inspector Collett prosecuted.

After the case for the prosecution had been completed,

The first defendant elected to give evidence. He admitted having been with the party from his club on the night in question and with others carried a stick. They were attacked in the street. Their assailants drew knives and one of them slashed defendant over the left hand with his knife. Defendant used his stick and hitting his assailant with it caused him to throw down the knife. Another man named Koon Kwun, seeing defendant had been stabbed, picked up the knife and stabbed the deceased twice and threw the knife away. Defendant returned to his club house and bandaged his hand. The knife produced did not belong to defendant.

The second defendant said that when he returned to the Hop Sing after the scuffle in the street he was not feeling very well as he had been struck on the head with a stick. While there the first defendant asked him if he had heard that a man had been stabbed to death, and added that he had chased the deceased who fell to the ground whereupon he stabbed the deceased. The knife belonging to the deceased was larger than his and he said it was fortunate for him his knife was sharp. Deceased stabbed him on the hand.

Both defendants were committed for trial.

THE DUMB BELL ISLAND MURDER.

The fisherman To Hing Chun from Lantau Island who with his wife were charged with the murder of Man Yuk Fat at Pak Ngan Heung on August 25th were on Sept. 11th committed for trial by Mr. Melbourne.

Mr. F. Browne, Government analyst, gave evidence to the effect that the jacket produced had a number of bloodstains.

Mr. Goldsmith, assistant engineer, in the P.W.D., submitted a plan showing the house at which the murder was committed.

A Chinese constable spoke to arresting the second defendant, who had disappeared after the murder, and had returned to her house for rice.

Sergt. Angus deposed to having been in the Police Station at Cheung Chan on the 26th August when the first defendant, To Hing Chun, came in and reported that his house had been robbed the previous night. There were a number of men one of whom rushed at him with a dagger but he struck him down with a bed board. The four men ran off, leaving the fifth. His wife and he tied the legs of this man. A \$50 note and three \$10 notes were reported to have been stolen. While defendant was making this report deceased's brother appeared at the Station and declared that To Hing Chun had murdered his brother. Witness spoke to arresting the defendant and to discovering the body of the murdered man covered with grass a little distance from defendants' house. In the house he found the two choppers and part of a queue produced.

Defendants reserved their defence, To Hing Chun saying he would call a witness at his trial.

Another old resident, formerly of the Hongkong Civil Service, passed away early on Sept. 12th in the person of Mr. João Miguel Sebastião Alves, at the age of 67. He came to Hongkong in 1859 to join the General Post Office and later, in 1865, he was transferred to the Colonial Secretary's Office where he remained till 1897 and retired on pension. At the time of his retirement he was first clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office. He was one of the promoters of the first Portuguese Club in this Colony, and later took an active part in the formation and amalgamation of the present Club Lusitano.

THE STORM.

Opinion seems to be divided as to whether the storm of Friday night and Saturday morning should be described as a typhoon, but whatever term be applied there can be no doubt that winds of great force raged for a considerable period at the time indicated. Naturally the near approach of the anniversary of that awful day in September of last year inclined people's thoughts to those unwelcome visitors which come about this season of the year and with the typhoon signals flashing out their warning on Thursday night from the Tamar and from the Observatory it was little wonder that typhoons should form the great topic of conversation. Happily the storm has passed without exacting any great toll of human life, and though petty damage has been done on a fairly wide scale, there are no accidents or losses of any moment to report.

On Friday night the wind had risen to a hurricane and the sea was running high, but there was little cause for alarm on sea as all the smaller craft had sought safety in the usual anchorage and the larger steamers were prepared to ride through the storm. As already reported the tramway service was stopped shortly after eight o'clock on Friday night at the passage along the Praya had by that time become fraught with danger and the Star ferries ceased running about the same time. The Peak Tramway however maintained its regular service. Ricksha coolies were found brave enough to remain on the streets for some few hours later but when one or two were overturned it scared the remainder and by midnight not a vehicle could be obtained in the Colony. About ten o'clock several men went down to the vicinity of Pedder's Wharf to enjoy the spectacle of the seas dashing over the Praya. There was a tremendous swell at that time and the waves carried by the strong easterly wind, simply swept that thoroughfare. By eleven o'clock Pedder's Wharf was unapproachable. It was battered by wind and water and occasionally it looked as if the recently erected matshed was coming down. However it withstood the gale, as did the other matsheds in the neighbourhood.

Sometime after nine the P. and O. hoarding was blown down and in other parts of the town similar damage was done. The three hundred foot pier erected by Mr. M. Razack at the Belle Vue Hotel, which has been so popular with bathers this summer, was swept away. Great havoc was wrought among the trees and flowers. Branches were torn off and littered the streets, flower pots were wrecked, and gardens destroyed. On the higher levels the damage in this direction was considerable. Trees were stripped, garden seats lifted and thrown some distance, while the destruction caused in most gardens is almost incalculable. The Public Gardens suffered greatly and the efforts to restore them to the bloom and beauty of the pre-1906 typhoon have been largely undone.

On Saturday, though the wind continued to blow with no little force, the sea was calmer. The tramway service was resumed and the ferries commenced running. A walk through the streets of the Colony showed many traces of the force of the wind. But the P.W.D. had with commendable promptitude set early to work to remove the debris and in a short time the streets were restored to something like their wonted appearance.

It was learned on Saturday morning that a godown near the Tramway Depot at Bowrington had collapsed and that a wall at Tank Lane in the Central District had also given way. Shoring, too, at the Hongkong Hotel, fell on Saturday morning but the damage done was trifling.

On Friday night Mr. H. S. Humphrey, an assistant in the International Bank, was being conveyed in a chair along Macdonnell Road when a sudden gust blew it into the side channel. The coolie behind was pinned to the ground, and when released, it was found that he had broken one of his fingers. He was taken to Dr. Jordan's surgery where part of the finger was amputated.

The front walls of two buildings in Tank Lane, said to belong to the Land Investment Co., collapsed, but strange as it may seem the roofs remained intact, and there were no casualties.

The Admiralty Pier at Arsenal Street, just newly enlarged, had its stairways carried away.

As in the memorable typhoon, Kowloon was the greatest sufferer, so this year the damage on the mainland was greater than on the island. Large trees were torn up by the roots, and some of these in their fall damaged the telephone and electric wires, so that the Peninsula for a time was without telephonic communication and without electric light. The furious gusts of wind on Friday night tore portion of the roof from Messrs. Macdonald and Co's engineering works at Hunghom, while a coal marshed near the Star Ferry wharf belonging to the Godown Company was blown down. Some new wharves in course of construction at Blackhead's Point were also seriously damaged.

On the water, notwithstanding the timely warning and the preparations to meet the blow, there were still a number of craft unable to weather the storm. As the first gusts heralding its approach swept the harbour, a number of Chinese owned launches sought shelter in Chinwan Bay. Through anchoring too close to each other, however, considerable damage was done, and yesterday a number of dilapidated launches with bows stove in and other damage were seeking admission to the Cosmopolitan Dock for repair. Two lighters anchored on the north side of Stonecutters, belonging to the Godown Company, were thrown high and dry on the beach, but as they landed on a sandy bottom, no serious damage is anticipated. A dredger belonging to the Dock Company, and chartered by Chinese who are carrying out certain work for the Standard Oil Company at Laichikok, was driven ashore on the South east point of Chunghue Island, and it is feared is a total wreck. A lighter belonging to the Green Island Cement Co. foundered in Hunghom Bay just off the works, and three of the crew, a woman, a girl and a boy, are reported missing. A launch belonging to the same Company was also driven ashore, but fortunately she struck a muddy bottom and received no serious damage, being refloated yesterday by a launch belonging to the Dock Company. The launch *Kwong Fat*, was driven high and dry on the rocks near Gun Club Hill, and is now securely wedged between two boulders from which position it is expected there will be great difficulty in releasing her. The s.s. *Loongsang*, which was anchored near the cable ground, dragged her anchors, drifted on to that ground and became entangled with the cables. It was some time before she could get clear of them, and by that time a number of the cables had been damaged, the result being a dislocation of the telegraph service.

When it became apparent that a stiff blow was likely to sweep the harbour on Friday night, not only the Chinese craft, but a large number of steamers left their berths for safer anchorages. Only the *Empress of China* and a few of the larger vessels remained at their buoys, and these steamers with two anchors out and an extra quantity of cable had steam up to face the blow. Yesterday morning all the steamers returned to their moorings, and junks and sampans emerging from the typhoon shelter, again studded the harbour. As is usually the case in typhoon weather, there was a postponement of the hour of departure of mail and other steamers, but so far as the mail steamers are concerned, this will not be serious, as they will no doubt make up the lost time in the course of the voyage.

There were upwards of 30 ships arrived in port yesterday, and most of these report having experienced exceedingly rough weather. In many instances lifeboats and other deck apparatus were damaged. Eight lamps and a number of windows in the Gap Rock Lighthouse were broken, and the lighthouse is now unable to display the proper lights for mariners. The Government fire float, which was lying in Chinwan Bay, got foul of the cables of the s.s. *Po Cheung* and was badly damaged before getting clear.

The s.s. *Chazee* (Captain Cave), a steamer of the Mogul Line, for which Messrs. Dodwell & Co. are agents, arrived in port before noon to-day after having experienced the full force of the typhoon. The *Chazee* was bound from Japan, and on Friday night when about 25 miles from Hongkong she was overtaken by the typhoon. Prior to this the glass dropped to 27.20, and this warning was soon followed by

the full force of the gale. Mountainous seas were running and the wind was blowing at hurricane force, and notwithstanding the fact that precautions had been taken to batten down the hatches and cover them with extra tarpaulins, the furious gusts of wind tore both coverings and hatches away, and the seas broke into the hold and damaged the cargo to an extent that can only be ascertained this morning. The storm raged for some hours, and during this time the vessel's steering gear carried away and she drifted many miles to the south. The Captain and officers improvised a method of steering the ship by connecting the winches and the rudder with wire ropes and in this way regained control. While carrying out this work the fourth officer met with a painful accident which subsequently cost him the loss of one of his fingers. During the gale the second officer was dashed against one of the masts, and the force of the wind so wedged him against it that it was two hours before he could be extricated. As another instance of the force of the wind, a long rope which was lying in one of the lifeboats became a toy for the gale and was so twisted round the davits that the captain yesterday exhibited it as actual evidence of the fury of the storm they had passed through.

The s.s. *Onsang*, from Probolinggo was also overtaken by the storm, but Captain Cox found shelter at the lee of Ladrone Island, and there rode it out. One of the officers is said to have been badly injured.

Last night, although the wind dropped, there was a torrential downpour of rain and the vivid flashes of lightning which at intervals illuminated the city showed that most of the streets were flooded, the side channels being unable to carry off the great quantity of water, which practically covered Des Voeux Road, while in Queen's Road ingress to the Connaught Hotel was blocked, the water being nearly a foot deep at the entrance. Further damage was probably done, as last year, in the Savoy Store.

One of the most serious effects of the deluge was the bursting of a nullah from the reservoir in Bowen Road. The raging torrent wrought much havoc, embankments being disturbed and several walls damaged. Stones and boulders were strewn down the hill and Kennedy Road was impassable at the tram station. The Peak trams were impeded, and at first it was feared that some accident had occurred as the descending car was considerably overdue.

THE HARBOUR STABBING AFFRAY.

The case was concluded on Sept. 10th in which two members of the crew of the s.s. *Indravelli* were charged with assaulting the third officer, Mr. Thorne. The defendants were Thomas Dean and Charles Reilly.

Mr. Thorne said that when the men returned to the ship in the early morning they were very noisy. He told Dean to go forward but the latter told him to shut his mouth or he would shut it for him adding that he was not going to be spoken to by any one. Witness thereupon seized Dean and was immediately struck. In the struggle which ensued Reilly joined and struck witness. By that time the second officer ran up and knocked Reilly down while the captain seized Dean. Witness did not know he had been stabbed till afterwards. He was wounded on the right breast and the left shoulder. Defendants were the only men who attacked him.

Dean said he had nothing to say except that he was drunk. Reilly denied joining in the struggle between the third officer and Dean.

Mr. Hazeland sentenced Dean to four months' hard labour and Reilly to six weeks.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Works and Commerce in obedience to their Majesties' commands has reported on the rewards to be offered to patriotic and wealthy Chinese who should start great industrial works in the country. One of the recommendations is that the rank of Viscount shall be bestowed on any one who invests a capital of twenty million taels in commercial or industrial enterprises anywhere in the Empire. Merchants in the above respect can only be Barons or Viscounts; Earldoms, Marquises and Dukedoms being beyond them.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING WEAVING AND DYEING COY.

The tenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Sept. 14th at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Co. The Hon. Mr. H. Keswick presided and there were also present Sir Paul Chater and Mr. A. J. Wood (consulting committee), Messrs. P. S. Jameson (secretary), A. Shaw (manager), J. Gittens, E. Shaw, S. P. Blair, R. Piercy, C. H. Blason, Lo Cheung Shui, Ho Yuen Sing, and Fok Kam Yin.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said, Gentlemen:—I presume you wish me to take the report and statement of accounts, as read. The period covered by the accounts now before you has been one of unprecedented depression for those interested in the yarn trade of the Colony. Since our last annual meeting most of the local native yarn merchants have failed, and this, coupled with the congested state of the trade, has been in a very large measure responsible for the poor result of the past year's working. Our stocks of cotton and yarn have been taken over at safe prices, and under the adverse circumstances obtaining during the past year I trust that you will consider the gain on working of \$9252.44 satisfactory. The property is all in first class condition. Towards the end of April last the outlook was far from encouraging and we considered that it was necessary to curtail the production. This we did by reducing the number of spindles running. It necessitated dispensing with the services of about half of our work people, but the method has proved more economical than working short time and we are continuing it. In former years we have been able to dispose of almost our entire production locally, but owing to the dislocation of the trade here, consequent upon the afore-mentioned failures, we have had to seek fresh outlets for our spinnings, and with this end in view have introduced our yarns to the coast ports, where I am pleased to say they have been well received. It is doubtless obvious to you that an industry such as ours is largely dependent upon the prosperity of the country people, the principal consumers, and that anything affecting their welfare, such as crop failures, rebellions, floods, &c., affects us also. China has had her full share of these evils of late, and we can only hope that a new era of prosperity is in view. Your consulting committee has felt justified in proposing to you that \$50,000, should be taken from the equalization of dividend fund for distribution, and, I trust you will approve. Before asking you to pass the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions concerning them.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts which was seconded by Mr. Blason, and agreed to.

Mr. LO CHEUNG SHUI proposed the re-election of Sir Paul Chater and Mr. A. J. Wood as consulting committee.

Mr. TOK KAM YIN seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. PIERCY, seconded by Mr. GITTENS, Mr. W. H. Potts was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—That finishes the business, gentlemen, I thank you for your attendance,

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD.

The ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd. was held at the Hongkong Hotel on September 14th. Hon. Mr. E. Osborne presided, and there were also present Dr. J. W. Noble and Mr. F. Maitland (directors), Mr. C. Mooney (secretary) and Messrs. A. Turner, E. J. Chapman, E. S. Kadoorie, J. Walker, E. D. Haskell, J. Arnold, Ho Wing and Chan Chan-nam.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen:—We will, if you approve, accept the report and accounts as read. The business of the Hotel during

the six months covered by the report, was not marked by any unusual feature except that the monotonous decline of custom to which we in common with others, have become so familiar of late, seems at last to have reached finality; indeed, at times our weekly returns even indicated a slight improvement, affording courage to hope that the long protracted gloom that has settled like a blight upon the commercial life of the Colony, will ere long give way to a brighter atmosphere. By dint of economy, accompanied naturally by an inevitable, though small sacrifice of efficiency we have been able to arrest a further large diminution of profits, and but for several exceptional items of expenditure, the half year's profit would have equalled that of the previous year in spite of the decrease in revenue. These economies we shall continue to enforce consistently with the requirements of efficiency. The recent unfortunate collapse of a portion of a verandah has somewhat precipitated matters in connection with those portions of the Hotel known as the Old Building and East Wing. Both are quite unsuited to the purposes of a Hotel; the old building by reason of its wasteful, rambling corridors, and huge rooms; the east wing rooms by the absence of light and ventilation. For these reasons your Directors, for some years past, have had in mind their demolition and reconstruction, but in view of the changed condition of affairs of late, we have hesitated to recommend any large expenditure hoping to carry on as we were till times improved. This collapse, however, necessitates a large and immediate outlay in repairs, which in view of the unsuitability of the structures to which I have referred, we cannot advise you to incur. We recommend instead that both buildings be demolished, excepting a small portion of the east wing where machinery is situated, and that new buildings be erected, details of which will be disclosed later on when plans are further advanced and when you will be asked to meet for the purpose of sanctioning an increase of capital to the extent of probably \$300,000, and we hope the new buildings will be a great improvement and bring the Hotel up to date. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. HASKELL seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. TURNER, seconded by Mr. CHAPMAN, and agreed, that Mr. W. H. Potts should be re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Mr. WALKER proposed the re-appointment of Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe as auditors.

Mr. HO WING seconded, and shareholders agreed.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividends will be ready on Monday morning, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

The report was as follows:—

To the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with section 56 of the Articles of Association, the directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ended 30th June, 1907.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account amounted to \$73,068.23 as compared with \$76,552.56 for the corresponding period of 1906, being a decrease of \$3,484.33.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$371.53 brought forward from 31st December, 1906, shows a credit balance of \$73,884.50 which the Directors recommend should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for the half-year \$48,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account 10,000.00
To write off furniture and fixtures .. 4,958.62
To carry forward to new account ... 10,925.88
\$73,884.50

DIRECTORS.

Mr. W. H. Potts has been granted leave of absence, and Mr. F. Maitland joined the

Board at the invitation of the Directors. Mr. W. H. Potts retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. R. Lowe, C.A., and R. Paterson, C.A., the latter acting for Mr. Jeffries. Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe, offer themselves for re-election.

EDWARD OSBORNE,
Chairman.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the six months ending 30th June, 1907.

Dr.	\$ c.
To bad debts and refunds	570.65
To Crown rent	505.93
To rates	2,727.40
To fire insurance	3,235.50
To debenture int. on \$500,000 at 3 per cent.	\$15,000.00
To less returned on debentures held by the company	2,414.55
To interest account	12,555.45
To directors' and auditors' fees	6,143.26
To repairs and renewals account, balance as per statement	3,294.97
To balance, to be appropriated as follows:—	
To pay a dividend of 8 per cent.	\$48,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account	10,000.00
To write off furniture and fixture account	4,958.62
To carry forward to new account	10,925.88
	73,884.50
	\$106,117.66

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from 31st Dec., 1906 \$67,371.53	
Less dividend at 10 per cent.	\$69,000.00
Less transferred to repairs and renewals account ..	7,000.00
	67,371.53
By rents of shops and offices, old building ..	\$6,555.00
By rents of shops and offices, new building	4,280.00
By rent of hotel mansions	21,000.00
	31,835.00
By dividends on shares in public companies	814.01
By scrip and transfer fees	24.00
By bad debts recovered	4.90
By profit on hotel working account for the six months ending 30th June, 1907	73,068.23
	\$106,117.66

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.

For the six months ending 30th June, 1907.

Dr.	\$ c.
To payments on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 30th June, 1907	13,694.15
	\$13,694.15
Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from last account	3,399.18
By amount transferred from profit and loss account as recommended in last report	7,000.00
By transfer to profit and loss account	3,294.97
	\$13,694.15

BALANCE SHEET 30th June, 1907.

LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Capital—		
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)		600,000.00
1,000 mortgage debentures 8 c. (6 per cent.)		500,000.00
Less 162 mortgage debentures held by the company		81,000.00
		419,000.00
Reserve fund		648,975.78
Sundry creditors		26,427.68
Unclaimed dividends		2,040.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (current account)		215,926.01
Profit and loss account, balance as per statement		73,884.50
		\$1,986,253.97

ASSETS.

		\$ c.
Value of Marine Lot No. 5 and remaining Portion of Marine Lot No. 3 and remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 7		1,065,380.00
Praya Reclamation (Marine Lot No. 288)		\$246,140.00
Building thereon "Hotel Mansions"		375,752.68
		621,892.68
Cost of three Chinese houses on section B C and D of Inland Lot No. 80		33,000.00
Cost of Kowloon Farm Lot No. 3 section A		30,926.90
		\$1,751,199.58

Furniture and fixtures, as per last account	\$80,908.87
Since added	19,049.75
	99,958.62
Installation of Electric Light, as per last account	24,000.00
Stock of Linen, Crockery and Glassware, &c.	36,931.56
Stock of Wine, Provisions, Household Sundries and Stationery as per Inventories	26,279.95
Shares in Public Companies	5,796.31
Value of Steam Launch	5,000.00
Sundry Debtors	30,462.62
Licenses attaching to half-year to 31st December, 1907	1,163.67
Fire Insurance (unexpired premia)	3,122.75
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (Unclaimed Dividends Account)	2,040.00
Cash in hand	236.01
	\$1,986,253.97

SHANGHAI RUBBER CO.

The Statutory General Meeting of Shareholders in the Dominion Rubber Co., Ltd. was held at Shanghai on Sept. 3rd. Mr. J. C. Hanson, Chairman of the Company, presided, and there were present:—Messrs. A. McLeod, E. O. Cumming (Directors), J. E. Bingham, C. E. Ellis, J. A. Wattie, Chun Kau-chow and E. F. Bateman (Secretary), representing 9045 shares.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, there is no business to be done and this meeting is merely called to comply with the Hongkong Ordinances, which require that a statutory meeting be held within four months after the time a company has been incorporated. But I may mention, for the information of the shareholders, that everything seems to be going on satisfactorily. All the shares were taken up, the purchase money has been paid over, and we have got from the Government a grant of the Hendra Estate, by which we obtain, I am glad to say, an area of 624 acres instead of the 100 acres mentioned in the prospectus, and we hope to get the Dominion Estate very shortly. With regard to all grants from the Government, as the staff is insufficient there is delay in the grants being issued; but everything, we are assured, is quite in order and our grant will be issued in another month. With regard to finance, it was one of the conditions that we should pay for the working of the estate from the beginning of the year, and we have now got the accounts of the expenses, which come to \$6,590. I had hoped to have a more detailed report of the conditions on the estate, but our agents at Ipoh, Messrs. Aylesbury and Garland write that the gentleman who should make up this report is unfortunately ill. Apparently the position is this; 214 acres have one year rubber-trees on them, and another 200 acres have been felled and are now in course of being planted with rubber; and our agent suggests that another 200 acres be opened up early next year as soon as the season for felling trees begins. We estimate the funds we have in hand will be sufficient to carry us on till March, and that there will be no necessity for a further call till March next year. Mr. Ede having to leave Shanghai for Hongkong, retired from the Directorate and we have been fortunate enough to get Mr. Hogg to take his place as Director. I hope to take a run home early next year, and if I get away soon enough it is my intention to pay a good visit to the Senawang Estate and to this Estate also, as it is important that someone in connection with the Company should see for himself how things are going on.

On the conclusion of the Chairman's observations the meeting dissolved.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., returned from his flying visit to Canton early in the morning. Having called on Mr. Mansfield, the British Consul, that gentleman afforded the visitor every facility for seeing the sights of the City of Rams. Mr. Keir Hardie regarded the visit as one of the most interesting in his tour. On landing he was conveyed to Government House, where he passed the night. On Sept. 7th he breakfasted with His Excellency and Lady Lugard at Mountain Lodge, and afterwards boarded the *Marmora* en route for India.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

September, 11th.

INVITING DISASTER.

Some time ago Mr. H. Paul King, Commissioner of Customs here, called the attention of the local authorities to the endangering of life and property by the kerosine shops in the Tung Hing Street, which are so near to the steamer wharves and I. M. Customs Offices. There are about 25 kerosine shops in that street and every one of them is stocked full with kerosine and matches. They purchase kerosine in drum or tanks from European wholesale merchants and the empty tins are filled and soldered on the premises. Mr. King proposed that these shops should have a depot somewhere and that they should have only 20 tins of kerosine in their shops. The Kerosine Guild strongly objected to the Commissioner's proposal and threatened to strike if the authorities enforced the new regulation. Eventually the Commissioner dropped the matter as he did not think it was within his rights to interfere with Government regulations and requested the Provincial Judge Kung Taotai to deal with it. Nothing further was heard. Yesterday at about 3.30 p.m. a fire broke out in the Wing Sing kerosine shop through the soldering of kerosine tins. It spread so rapidly that in about 1½ hours 50 houses were burnt. This calamity may induce the Chinese to follow the Commissioner's good advice.

SHUM'S TOUTS.

Viceroy Chang will embark at Shanghai for Canton on the 14th instant by the s.s. *Tai Shun* and will take over the provincial functions on the 19th instant. Owing to the recent rebellion in Yam Chow Prefecture there are rumours in official quarters here that Viceroy Shum may come to Canton. It is stated that H. E. Sik Liang, Viceroy of Yunnan, has telegraphed to the Central Government urging the immediate appointment of Viceroy Shum to the Two Kwang. It is currently believed here that the acting Viceroy will do his utmost to urge the Throne to re-appoint Shum to the Two Kwang Viceroyalty, as the only one strong man able to cope with any serious rising that may occur.

DEATHS DUE TO REFORM.

Owing to the sudden closure of opium dens and the rigid enforcement of the new regulation hundreds of deaths have occurred amongst the inveterate smokers of the working classes who were unable to obtain the drug. It is reported that Dr. Adolf Razlag has proposed to the Government to open an establishment under official supervision, offering his services free, where confirmed smokers of the labouring class may be treated, so that they can stop smoking gradually.

A NEW DOCTOR.

We have a new doctor amongst us, Dr. Hans Reber. He has been here only a few days, and has already made himself very popular. It is said that he was highly recommended by his Government.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

September 6th.

A DECREE RELATING TO FOREIGNERS.

The *Boletim Oficial* contains some regulations for putting into force a Decree, dated 4th July 1906, relating to the admission, residence, travel and departure of foreigners in the Colony of Macao. There are 12 articles but the most important are the second and the last. It is declared that foreigners may freely enter Macao and its dependencies, but it is required, with some exceptions, that within three days of their arrival in the Colony they shall present themselves at the *Administração do Concílio* for the purpose of "legitimising their residence." The exceptions are (1) Chinese subjects; (2) Consular agents; and (3) tourists, who are not required to make a declaration unless they intend to make a stay exceeding twenty days. Foreigners now residing in Macao, who have not yet registered according to the decree of July 1906 are notified that, if

they do not duly register themselves within ninety days, they will render themselves liable to a fine of from 5,000 to 20,000 reis.

THE DECLINE OF THE COLONY.

No amount of official explanation will convince the public that the Colony is not in the throes of a crisis. Is it not possible for the *Leal Senado*, as the representative assembly in the Colony, to attempt to get an expression of public opinion by convening a meeting of the leading business men of the Colony to discuss the position? I am sure that such an expression of opinion would be welcomed by H. E. the Governor and would considerably strengthen his hands. If strong representations to the Home Government have become necessary, who but the *Leal Senado* should take the lead in the matter? The loss of revenue from the lotteries, owing to the declining prosperity of the Colony, will considerably reduce the income of the *Leal Senado*, and this fact alone ought to open their eyes to the position. All who take any interest in the welfare of the Colony would welcome the lead of the *Leal Senado* in an effort to impress upon the Government at Lisbon the crying need of reform in the administration of the Colony.

OBITUARY.

News has reached the Colony of the death of D. Amalia de Borja, the wife of Senhor Custodio M. de Borja, a former Governor of Macao. The death occurred in Lisbon. Mrs. de Borja was not only well known here, but also in Hongkong and Shanghai, and news of her death will be received with deep regret.

September 11th.

SNIPE-SHOOTING.

Snipe and other game are very plentiful this season in the neighbourhood of the Colony. Sportsmen who have been shooting in the districts of Nantai-chong, Siue-tong and Tappu have returned from their excursions well satisfied.

A ROYAL BIRTHDAY BALL.

Invitations have been issued by His Excellency the Governor for a ball on the 28th inst. in honour of the birthdays of their Majesties the King and Queen of Portugal. The King on the 28th will be 44 years of age and the Queen 42.

THEFT FROM LAPPA CUSTOMS.

An office "boy" who was a very old and trusted servant at the Lappa Customs Station absconded on Saturday with a considerable sum of money. The police authorities of Macao were notified, but the man has not yet been discovered.

ANARCHISTS ON A WARSHIP.

Last Friday and Saturday a Court Martial was held for the trial of six seamen of the gunboat *Rio Lima*, and four artillery men who were charged with propagating anarchist doctrines among their companions. A search among the private effects of the prisoners resulted in the discovery of a quantity of anarchist literature. The Court, over which the Police Commander presided, sat on Friday from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. when sentences were passed upon the prisoners found guilty. One artillery man was sentenced to imprisonment for two years and a half, and his companions in the corps to eight months each. The leader among the sailors, who formed the local society, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, and another sailor to eight months. The other four seamen were discharged. Lieut. Luciano Cordeiro was the prosecutor and the services of Mr. A. J. Basto were retained for the defence of the prisoners.

THE SALE OF DRUGS.

Why does the Government attempt to regulate the price at which medicines shall be sold by the local dispensaries? The price-list which the Government has drawn up and published in the *Boletim* shows the charges in many instances to be immensely greater than they need be. In some cases the charges are actually ten times higher than those charged elsewhere. The result is that the public go elsewhere for the medicines they require, and the local dispensaries suffer accordingly. Further comment on the absurdity of this government regulation is superfluous.

THE LATE MR. CHARLES GRANT.

It came as a sad surprise to his many friends in Hongkong to read among the London telegrams in the *Daily Press* on Sept. 14th the announcement of death of Mr. Charles Grant of Shanghai. Mr. Grant came out from England to Hongkong about 1879 to join the firm of Messrs. Kelly and Walsh. He became a partner in the firm soon after, and when the company was converted into a limited company Mr. Grant was appointed manager of the Hongkong branch. He resided here for upwards of twenty years, leaving for Shanghai in March 1897 to become managing director of the firm on the retirement of Mr. Thomas Brown. Mr. Grant left Shanghai last June, travelling home by way of Canada, to become the London representative of the firm. He had been unwell sometime before he left, but the trip home appeared to have put him right, for in a letter written from London on August 5th to a friend in Hongkong he said:—"I am feeling as well as at any time in my life. All symptoms of sprue appear to have left me and I trust they will not re-appear. Mrs. Grant and I hope to make a trip through Ireland next month." The telegram announcing his death came therefore as a great surprise. Mr. Grant was only just over 50 years of age.

When in Hongkong Mr. Grant was an active Mason. He was a Past-Master of Lodge St. John, and took part in the formation of the Masonic Club here. He was one of the most kindhearted of men, as many people in Hongkong well know, but he was of a modest and retiring nature and shunned publicity. He was one of those men who loved to do good by stealth and blushed to find it fame. His unexpected death so shortly after his return to England will be lamented by a wide circle of friends, and by none more sincerely than the members of Messrs. Kelly and Walsh's staff by whom he was held in the highest respect and esteem. Mr. Grant leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss and to them a host of friends in the East extend their deepest sympathy.

THE LATE MR. S. H. SHORROCK, SHANGHAI.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of Sept. 2nd says:—"It is with great regret that we have to record the death on Saturday morning of Mr. Samuel H. Shorrocks, from acute dysentery. Mr. Shorrocks had been about as usual only two days previously, and his death comes as a great shock to his friends, many of whom did not even know that he was ill. Mr. Shorrocks first came out here, we believe, in 1897, when he started business as a machinery importer and consulting engineer. Since 1903 he has dealt more particularly in electrical supplies, and as agent for Messrs. Bruce Peebles & Co., Ltd., he was largely responsible for securing them the tramway concession. A native of Lancashire, prior to his arrival in Shanghai he was a member of the old established firm of J. and R. Shorrocks, of Darwen. Since he came out he has been a prominent member of the Association of Lancastrians in China. He figured largely in the social life of the Settlement, but perhaps it will be by his enthusiasm for sport of all kinds that he will best be remembered. He took the keenest interest in the English walking team, for whose training he made himself almost entirely responsible. Furthermore all volunteers will remember the many enjoyable contests, open to all companies, for the Shorrocks Cup. He followed local affairs closely, and but for his connexion with the tramway company would almost certainly have been elected to the Municipal Council. At Home Mr. Shorrocks was a prominent Freemason and although he did not take a very active part in the work of the craft out here, he was greatly respected by the Fraternity. The greatest sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Shorrocks, who only arrived back from Taingtao on Thursday."

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon at Bubbling Well Cemetery. During the afternoon the flags at all the Clubs in the Settlement were flown at half mast, and long before the announced time of the service at the Cemetery chapel a large number of business men had gathered there. The

coffin was placed inside the chapel and a profusion of floral tributes to the memory of the deceased was sent by many friends and representatives of hongs in Shanghai.

The procession from the chapel to the grave was a long one, there being present representatives of deceased's firm, the Municipal Council, Bruce, Peebles and Co., the British Consulate and Supreme Court, all the principal hongs, the Stock Exchange, many Masonic brethren and others. The Pall Bearers were Messrs C. M. Bain, E. T. J. Blount, P. Crighton, Grant McKenzie, C. C. A. Warn, P. P. Sheldon, A. A. Brady, and A. M. Maclean.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, August 29th.

THE SEASONS.

It is a common experience of persons just arrived in Japan to find that many fixed notions regarding the country are hopelessly wrong. In the matter of weather they believe there are hard and fast seasons such as the wet season and the dry season, and that the climate is more or less tropical. But there is as much variety of climate here as in England—it is often as cold and it is generally hotter in the summer season, and these conditions can occur at the wrong time of the year just the same. For example the last wet season here was not remarkable, but at present, when it is supposed to be a dry hot season, we are in the middle of a spell of rain the equal of which has not been experienced for fifty years past. Its effects are disastrous and the loss of life and property enormous.

HAVOC BY THE FLOOD.

Beginning with August 23rd the rain fell continuously till yesterday, the 28th, this being the grand finale after a month of more or less wet weather. The results of this excessive rain can only be properly understood by those who are acquainted with Japan, where what are called rivers are for the greater part of the year mere streams coursing down broad river beds. In the past few days these river beds have been filled to overflowing. The smiling country of a week ago has been turned into a land of desolation, consequent upon the bursting of the embankments and the flooding of the country round. The position of Tokyo is unique, the city, ordinarily surrounded by richly cultivated plains being now the centre of many square miles of submerged fields. The calamity, however, is one the people are not unused to, in a less degree. Heavy rains yearly cause more or less destruction, and to build effective barrier against these torrents would mean a huge expenditure, which the country is unable or unwilling to bear.

A RAILWAY BREAKDOWN.

The most remarkable incident of the floods has been the breakdown of the busiest railway of the country, that between Tokyo and Yokohama. Traffic was stopped on Saturday evening, the 24th, and was not resumed until yesterday, the 28th, four clear days of suspension. What this means to the business community cannot be estimated. The electric railway service was also suspended, and the only means of communication between the two posts was a very unsatisfactory boat service, which seems, however, to have been the best that could be organised. But the boats, which left each end only four or five times a day, could accommodate only about one quarter of those who desired a passage, hundreds of disappointed persons crowding round each departure. In one case two families of foreign tourists, six persons in all, unable to travel by the boats because they had luggage, hired a small steamer at a cost of 85 yen, anxious to get away from Yokohama, where the water supply was out off owing to the bursting of the piping. Mail delivery of course has been a very irregular process, and judging from the accounts of trackloads of mail being shipped on already crowded vessels, one wonders why the Government did not make use of a few of the destroyers at Yokosuka or other craft for this special purpose. It is perhaps not

generous to criticise the authorities at such a time of helplessness before the elements, but the late experiences would be of some benefit if some national effort were made to strengthen the weak places in the railways and the river embankments, instead of patching them up, only to be destroyed by the next great rainfall.

THE SHARE MARKET.

At this season of the year the share market is generally inactive, but owing to the unfortunate floods and more still to the fire at Hakodate the depression that has been felt from the beginning of the year, is now accentuated, and the pessimists are for the time being in the ascendant. As a result of the floods four days' inactivity of the Keihin Electric Railway have sent these shares down several points, but the whole market is more severely hit by the Hakodate fire. Probably, if the wealth of the two countries were compared the fire at Hakodate would be found as serious for the people of Hokkaido as that at San Francisco was for the people at California. This is the first great trial the Japanese insurance companies have had of their resources and it will be most interesting to see how they meet the situation. It is stated that the liabilities of the principal native company, the Meiji Fire, will be well over a million yen, while both the Nippon and Tokyo will approach a million. The authorised capital of 19 fire companies in Japan in 1905 was 23 millions, amount paid up over 6 millions, and premium reserve funds nearly 3 millions. The standing of the principal companies in that year is given as follows:—

	Capital paid up	Reserves	Dividend
Meiji	250,000	2,421,000	20 per cent.
Nippon	10,000	101,000	25 "
Nippon Marine and Fire	750,000	1,167,000	10 "
Teikoku	750,000	441,000	12 "
Tokyo	1,250,000	577,000	12 "
Yokohama	1,250,000	717,000	10 "

Their funds are for the most part invested in such stocks as the Tokyo Railway and the necessity of realising at this critical juncture may have the effect of preventing any recovery of the market for many months to come.

A NEW LABOUR PROBLEM.

While the labour question on the Pacific Coast has occupied columns of the Japanese papers few seem to have been aware of the quiet experiments the Government railway authorities have been making with Chinese coolies in Kyushu. Some three hundred of these men have been employed in railway construction, at pay, it is stated, about half that Japanese labourers receive. No opposition appears to have been encountered on the part of the native labouring element, and as the Government expresses itself satisfied with the new labour, we can only wait and see how the venture turns out. The wages of the lower classes and their standard of living are steadily improving in Japan, and there is no doubt a scarcity of labour for the lowest class of work, consequent upon emigration and increased national prosperity. It is understood that another big batch of Chinese is to be introduced.

RUSSIAN SPIES.

A tragedy of a peculiarly revengeful character—if the motive for the crime is correctly stated—occurred recently in the Shiba district of Tokyo, and has occasioned a good deal of discussion in the Press. One morning a few days ago a Japanese was seen running through the streets bleeding, pursued by an other native with a short sword in his hand. The wounded man was at last struck down and lay dying in the street, while his murderer continued his way and surrendered to the police, claiming that he had killed a spy in the pay of the Russians. Whether this is the motive for the crime or not the incident has excited the press and public, and the position of Russian residents in this country has become an unenviable one. Cases have even occurred of threats being made against these foreigners and both the Premier and Home Minister have thought fit to issue public instructions, pointing out the folly and danger of encouraging such sentiments on the part of the newspapers, and the ingratitude of the sentiment in view of the newly concluded treaty between Russia and Japan. Where requested, special guards have been sent to Russian residents.

TROUBLE IN THE CANTON HINTERLAND.

BATTLE WITH REBELS IMMINENT.

We are indebted to an Occasional Correspondent for the following information, sent under date Sept. 10th.

The officials of Canton have received telegraphic advices of a rising of rebels, abetted by some soldiers, in the Yam-chow district of Kwangtung. The garrison at Tai-chee-hui, commanded by Taotai Wang Hoo, is disaffected.

[Tai-chee-hui is a market town close to the city of Fong-shing.]

On the 3rd inst. they joined forces with a mob of bandits, and looted the markets. They invaded the yamen of Magistrate Sung Chim-yun, and murdered him and his family and servants, to the number of nineteen. They then marched to Yam chow and Tung hing, capturing both cities.

They cut a lot of telegraph wires, but failed to stop all communications.

The telegram received here [Canton] was sent via Pakhoi. His Excellency Woo, the Acting Viceroy, at once sent off two regiments to deal with the rebels.

WATER RETURN.

Level and storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st September:—

	LEVEL 1906.	1907.
	Below overflow.	Above overflow.
Tytam	15 ft. 1½ in.	0 ft. 0.2 in.
Byewash	26 ft. 0 in.	1 ft. 10½ in.
Pokfulam	7 ft. 8 in.	0 ft. 1½ in.
Wongnaicheong	15 ft. 1½ in.	0 ft. 5 in.

STORAGE GALLONS.

	1906.	1907.
Tytam	288,660,000	384,800,000
Byewash	442,000	19,748,000
Pokfulam	49,260,000	66,000,000
Wongnaicheong	13,627,000	29,812,000
Total	331,989,000	500,360,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption	130,004,000	144,999,000 gallons
Estimated population	234,500	205,410
Consumption per head per day	17.9	22.7 gallons

Rider Main in operation in the Central and Western Districts, and constant supply in all other Districts during August 1906. Constant supply in all districts throughout the month of August 1907.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption	16,955,000	21,845,000 gallons
Estimated population	80,600	79,300
Consumption per head per day	6.8	8.8 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

In their attack on the police station at Yoju the Korean insurgents butchered two Japanese women and a child. Such deeds put them beyond the pale of all sympathy. It appears that two or three bands of insurgents contemplate a movement against Seoul. On the whole that would not be an unwelcome feature, since it would tend to the speedy quelling of the disturbance. It is alleged that a number of the fugitive soldiers are still lying hid in the capital, and that they are receiving assistance from certain foreigners by whose aid they have been enabled to obtain machinery for striking nickel coins with which they propose to defray what they call their military expenses.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 6th Sept., 1907.—Business reported since the 21st inst., is as under:—

	1907.	1906.
Settlements ...	1-Chests. 3,970	1-Chests. 1,440
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ...	nil	15,087

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 5th September, 1906.

	1907.	1906.
HANKOW TEA. 1-Chests.	481,548	376,910
Settlements ...	4,900	40,235
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account	25,689	36,813
Stock ...	512,137	454,058

	1907.	1906.
KIUKIANG TEA. 1-Chests.	181,316	158,018
Settlements ...	nil	7,652
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account	16,096	5,527
Stock ...	197,385	171,197

SILK.

From Messrs. F. C. Heffer's Report, dated Shanghai, September 3rd, 1907.—Telegrams report firm markets at home, and quote Gold Kiling in London at 14s. and in Lyons at Fcs. 38.62. Raw Silk.—Since my last issue a considerable business has been done for Europe. In Tsatles about 500 bales have been booked at steadily advancing prices, and at the close business has been done at Tls. 30 above previously quoted rates. Hand Filatures.—The demand is principally for these silks; including Hainin Filatures, some 2,000 bales have been contracted for. There has been some inquiry for America, but the only purchases reported for that market are 250 bales Small Buffalo and 90 bales New Style Filatures, particulars of which are given below. Steam Filatures.—Market is quiet and prices firm. It is estimated that 60 and 70 per cent. of this season's production has already been contracted for. Yellow Silks.—A fair business have been done at advancing prices. Market closes strong, and there is a scarcity of Wongchows and Szechuens.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, September 13th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.			
Malwa New	\$780	to	— per picul.
Malwa Old	\$840	to	— do.
Malwa Older	\$880	to	— do.
Malwa Very Old	\$900	to	— do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$700	to	— do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$750	to	— do.
Patna New		to	— per chest.
Patna Old	\$810	to	— do.
Benares New	\$800	to	— do.
Benares Old	\$795	to	— do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 5th September, 1907, has the following:—The dulness of our market appears to get more accentuated as time goes on, and the promised revivals are ever pushed further ahead. The latest date now is the 22nd instant, another of the periodical settling days, and in all probability it will not be before, for at the moment there is not the faintest sign of an enquiry. This applies to all makes, fancy goods as well as staples, and in the latter there are several holders who are willing to accept prices a good deal below replacing cost. Clearances have fallen off considerably, especially in American makes. In this respect our attention has been called to the falling off in the re-export figures of these goods during the last three months, as compared with the same period last year, not including the re-shipments to the States. In Drills it is 174,700 pieces, in Sheetings 65,000 pieces, in Jeans 12,200 pieces, while Shirtings show a slight increase. In English goods, on

the other hand, the comparison is more favourable, increases being shown in Grey Shirtings of 238,200 pieces, White Shirtings of 189,800 pieces, T-Cloths of 31,700 pieces, Jeans of 31,700 pieces and Dyed Goods of 129,400 pieces. This shows that in spite of the dull times there is a consumptive demand for some things. In all kinds the off-take up to the end of May was smaller this year than last year. If there is to be any forward buying for the Spring trade it is looking more and more advisable for others to be placed with some promptitude, as the chances seem to be strongly in favour of higher Cotton. As the future course, therefore, of the American Cotton market is likely to have an important bearing on the near future the following extract from the latest received *American Textile Manufacturer* will be read with interest:—"In response to a letter which President Jordan of the Southern Cotton Association sent out to bankers in the cotton belt, he has received hundreds of replies in which the bankers promise their co-operation with the farmer in holding cotton to as slow a movement as is possible to maintain a high level of prices." With the exception of Hankow, which is taking fair quantities of Piece Goods and Yarn, our dependencies are showing very little life. Newchwang is said to be selling stock cargo at rather better prices, but is not placing fresh orders to any extent. Tientsin seems to be still suffering from great lack of credit and want of hard Sycee, while the Godowns in the City, and the Concession Bunds, are crowded with cargo. Crop prospects continue excellent and the price of Rice is gradually coming down in most parts of the country, which will be a great boon to the poorer classes, who are undoubtedly the best customers in this trade. The shippers to Corea declare their advices are not very favourable, but all the same they are enquiring for more cargo. The anniversary of the opening of Dalny was celebrated the other day amid much rejoicing and speech making, in which the "open door" and such sentiments were brought prominently forward. Manchester is unchanged in the strong position she held for so long now and it is quite impossible to connect at anywhere near the prices that are nominally current here. Cotton in Liverpool is very firm at 7.48 for Mid American, "Futures" yesterday being quoted 6.08d. against 7.44d. spot. Egyptian is slightly easier at 10½. The export of plain Cottons last month to Hongkong and China was 24,000,000 yards; no special news of the New York market, where Mid-American stood at 12.00 cents for January according to latest advices. The Yarn market is exceedingly dull, though prices remain steady Cotton is easier for the old Crop but business is on quite a retail scale. Business so far as fresh sales go has been almost at a standstill during the interval from first hands privately, and at Auctions, though not showing very great changes, prices were inclined to be easier for all white goods, while Turkey Reds and Fast Black Italians were somewhat irregular, and the same may be said of Woollens. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—The market during the interval has been almost lifeless, but fairly steady prices have been paid for what business has been done, for the River markets the total sales reported only amounting in the aggregate to 1,020 bales.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Report of Sept. 5th, 1907.—Rain and dull cool weather for the past week have followed an exceptionally hot and dry August, although rain was required to a certain extent, some further heat and sunshine would now be welcomed by the farmers for their harvesting season. There are as yet no immediate indications of any autumnal demand, in fact rather the contrary, our market appearing to be dull with an absence of any encouraging inquiry from the consuming districts, with the exception of a small demand from the Shantung market for American Sheetings which has been easily satisfied; there has been practically nothing doing. It is hoped, however, that some spurt will be given to the present apathetic nature of operators as soon as the marketing of the Autumn crops commences. Trade generally is quiet, while clearances which had been showing signs of improvement have again fallen away somewhat. Indian yarn has been particularly slack throughout the week and prices have declined fully one tael per bale for all spinings. The Manchester market continues to remain steady, owing to the firmness of cotton which is now quoted by Reuter at 7.48d. per pound for Middling American, but without much business being put through. On the 2nd instant Middling American cotton was quoted at 6.84d. per pound for delivery this and or next month, the price of 32s. Twist average quality being 11½ per pound.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 5th September, 1907, has the following:—Gallnuts.—No business has been reported. Cowhides.—Season closed. Tobacco.—Sample shipments of new crop are now arriving; quality is satisfactory. Feathers.—Very little doing. Cotton.—Buyers at home seem to be inclined to pay somewhat higher prices and some few transactions have been put through in consequence. Tallow.—There has been some demand for green Tallow. Market quiet but firm. Wood Oil.—Prices rule very firm. Some transactions are reported. Strawbraid.—Most of the business done has been in Loyeh White, new goods being sold about 10 per cent. above the old braid. There is a good demand for fine and medium split, but supplies to the Shanghai market remain small. Rugs.—Goatskin.—The market has a downward tendency. The demand is poor. Wool.—Sheep's.—A good business has been done in the North. There is a somewhat better demand for Szechuen wool and as prices are a little easier, some good business should result. Antimony.—There is very little business doing.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 6th September, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—	
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Per picul. Tls. 34.50
Do. Seconds	31.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected.....	22.75
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi.....	9.70
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	7.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute.....	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	11.50
Animal Tallow	11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	14.80
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Woungkong	—
Turnerie	—
Sesamum Seed	5.25
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	9.20
Tea Oil	—

Per P. & O. steamer *Marmara*, sailed on 7th September. For Manchester:—180 bales waste silk, 1 case silk embroideries. For Lyons:—320 bales raw silk. For Milan:—35 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 25 bales human hair, 2 bales feathers, 409 bales raw silk, 2 packages tea. For London:—58 cases shells, 230 bales waste silk, 9 cases private effects, 18 cases typewriters, 1 case grass cloth, 175 cases camphor, 6 cases preserves, 2 cases cigars, 40 bales raw silk, 7 cases silk. For London and or Continent:—105 cases bristles, 20 cases merchandise.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on 12th September.—For Stockholm:—1 trunk private effects. For Antwerp:—20 bales canes. For Liverpool:—350 bales hemp. For London:—2 crates private effects, 550 bales hemp, 4 packages rice, 649 packages tea, 2 packages tea, 100 bales waste silk, 2 cases bottled soy, 4 cases private effects, 2,327 cases preserves, 25 rolls matting, 44 packages merchandise, 3 cases peacock feathers. For Marseilles:—14 cases human hair.

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 4th September, 1907, states:—There has been a fair general business transacted since our last issue and rates have been well maintained. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 3/04. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. There is no business reported, but quotations remain the same, viz., \$655 for the old and \$510 for the new shares. Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance. A few shares have changed hands at

Tls. 170. North-China Insurance. There are buyers at Tls. 75. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. There has been considerable enquiry for shares, with the result that rates have advanced to Tls. 32 for the Preference and Tls. 21 for the Deferred stock, closing with buyers for cash and time. Shanghai Tug and Light Co. Ordinary shares are on offer at Tls. 47½. The preference shares have buyers at Tls. 48½. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. A sale of cash shares has taken place at Tls. 77. For December shares are on offer at Tls. 80. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A very considerable business has been done during the week. The market opened with a sale of cash shares at Tls. 222 and Tls. 224 for September to be quickly followed with sales at Tls. 225 and Tls. 226 for cash, while for September the market advanced to Tls. 228. At the close these rates are well maintained. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves. We hear from Hongkong that shares have changed hands at \$68. Sugars.—Perak Sugars have been dealt in at Tls. 90, and close with sellers at this figure. Lands.—There is no business reported. Industrial.—Cottons have been very quiet during the week. Ewo Cottons we quote at Tls. 65 for cash and Tls. 66 for September. Internationals have buyers at Tls. 52 for cash and Tls. 55 for December. Laou Kung Mows stand at Tls. 90 nominal. Shanghai Gas Co. A transaction is reported at Tls. 108. Shanghai Ice Co. A few shares have changed hands at Tls. 14. China Flour Mills are on offer at Tls. 60. Shanghai Pulp and Paper Co. have been dealt in at Tls. 65. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkata. Shares have still further advanced in price this week. Opening at Tls. 815 for cash and Tls. 320 for September, persistent buying carried the rate steadily upwards, and at the close we quote buyers at Tls. 322½ for cash, Tls. 327½ for September and Tls. 337½ for December. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz. Shares are on offer at \$20. S. Moutrie & Co. have been dealt in at \$38. Weeks & Co. There are sellers at \$21½. Shanghai Horse Bazaar Shares have improved, and close with buyers at Tls. 32½. Shanghai Mutual Telephones have buyers at Tls. 35. Loans and Debentures.—We hear of nothing having been done this week.

HONGKONG, 13th September, 1907.—We have again to report upon a very quiet week, which closes practically featureless, and without any material change in quotations. Exchange on London is quoted to-day at 2/2½ T. T., and on Shanghai at 73 T. T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been done in small lots at \$645 to \$647 for old ex new, and at \$5½ for the new issue, the market closing steady at these rates, but with probable sellers of the latter. London is unchanged at £78 and £81 for the old ex new and new issues respectively. Nationals are neglected and without change at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Union continue in request at \$760, and China Traders at \$90. There are sellers of North Chinas at Tls. 77½. Yangtszes at \$175, and Cantons at \$270.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong continue on offer at \$315. Chinas, after a sale at \$87, have declined to \$86½ sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue on offer at \$28. Indos are in request at \$68 for Preferred and Deferred conjointly, and China and Manilas at \$15. Douglasses have been booked at \$41½ closing with further buyers, and shell transports at 44/6. Star Ferries are wanted at \$20 and \$11, for the old and new issues respectively.

REFINERIES.—No business is reported in this section, and we quote Chinas at \$98 and Luzons at \$21, both with sellers as before.

MINING.—Charbonnages are still enquired for at \$470. Raubs have been the medium of a very fair business at from \$6.90 to \$8, the market closing with probable buyers at the latter rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after small sales at \$105, have declined to \$104 with sellers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$63½ and \$64 closing firm with buyers at the latter rate. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$11½. Shanghai Docks are easier in the north at Tls. 77, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves at Tls. 229.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—There are sellers of Hongkong Lands at \$97, West Points at \$48, and Kowloon Lands at \$36. Hongkong Hotels continue in request but are apparently unobtainable at \$100. Humphrey's Estates have been booked at \$10½ and are still

wanted at the rate. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 102.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no business or change in quotations to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dairy Farms have improved to \$16½ with sales and further buyers. Green Island Cement has been booked at \$10½ to \$11 closing with sellers at the latter rate and buyers at slightly less, probably \$10.90. Electric have sold at \$13½, and Steam Laundries at \$6½, the latter closing with further buyers. Peak Tramways are wanted at \$12 and \$1½, for the old and new issues respectively.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$647½, sellers \$507½ Ln. 278 Ln. 281, - - - (215, paid up)
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6½
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$9½
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$6, sales & buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$8.90
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 85
Hongkong	\$10	\$11, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16½, sales & buy.
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$64, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$104, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$11½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 77
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 229
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$17, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13½, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$270, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86½, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 77½, sellers
Union	\$100	\$760, buyers
Yangtsze	\$50	\$175, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$97, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$104, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$36
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 102
West Point Building	\$50	\$48
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£cs. 250	\$470, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7½, buyers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$12, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$1.75, (new) buy
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$98, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41½, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$28, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$39, Prefd. buy. \$28, Defd. buy.
Shell Transport Co.	21	44/6, sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$20, sales & buy.
Do. New	\$5	\$11, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6½, sales
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, September 16th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/3
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	27½
Credits 4 months' sight	284
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	227
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	55
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	16½
Bank, on demand	166½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	165½
Bank on demand	166½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	108½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	108½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	51 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	133½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	3½ p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	67½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 8.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$17.40
BAR SILVER, per oz	\$1½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent
Chinese 20 cents pieces	\$1.34 discount.
" 10 " "	640 "
Hongkong 20 " "	5.15 "
" 10 " "	5.85 "

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 8th September.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents last and no further demand at the moment; to Singapore, a small carrier closed on a lump sum basis which works out at about 14 cents per picul; to Philippines, three steamers fixed at 24½ cents, 23 cents and 21 cents according quantity. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents. From Bangkok to this, no demand. Newchwang/Canton, nothing doing. Coal freights are weak. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.50 last; to Canton, \$2.00 per ton; to Swatow, \$1.70; to Singapore \$1.70. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.00 per ton. The following are the settlements:—
Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.70 per ton.
Tinhaw—British steamer, 902 tons, Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$4,000 lump sum.
Fume—German steamer, 838 tons, Saigon to Cebu (20,000), 24½ cents per picul.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (30,000), 22 cents per picul.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (32/33,000) 21 cents per picul.
Kwengeng—German steamer, 969 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez)—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—

ARRIVALS.

- 5, Fausang, British str., from Hongay.
- 6, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Knivsberg, German str., from Macao.
- 6, Progress, Nor. str., from Sandakan.
- 6, Satsuma, British str., from Keelung.
- 6, Signal, German str., from Hoihow.
- 6, Store Nerdiske, Danish str., from Cruise.
- 6, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 7, Choisan, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
- 7, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Kowloon, German str., from Navaaki.
- 7, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Vorwaerts, German str., from Hoihow.
- 7, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., from M. ji.
- 8, Aki Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Frankley, British str., from New York.
- 8, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Ningchow, British str., from America.
- 8, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Tremont, American str., from Seattle.
- 9, Calohas, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Goeben, German str., from Bremen.
- 9, Hue, French str., from K. C. Wan.
- 9, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 9, Neumuehlen, Ger. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 9, Paklat, German str., from Swatow.
- 9, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Sungkiang, British str., from Cebu.
- 10, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Nicomedia, German str., from Portland.
- 10, Profit, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
- 10, Sexta, German str., from Java.
- 10, Tydeus, British str., from Singapore.
- 11, G. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 11, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
- 11, Childar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 11, Chunsang, British str., from Moji.
- 11, City of Delhi, British str., from Manila.
- 11, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
- 11, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 11, Hinsang, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 11, Kwangse, British str., from Hongay.
- 11, Kweiyang, British str., from Newchwang.
- 11, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.
- 11, Singan, British str., from Hoihow.
- 11, Vine Branch, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Belgavia, German str., from Singapore.
- 12, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Pakhoi.
- 12, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 12, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Sourabaya.
- 12, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Kuchinotzu.

September— DEPARTURES.

- 6, Daphne, German str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 6, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Fooshing, British str., for Foochow.
- 6, Forestdale, British str., for Sourabaya.
- 6, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 6, Habsburg, German str., for Singapore.
- 6, Halmun, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Kumano Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 6, Standard, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 6, Wyneric, British str., for Calcutta.
- 6, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 7, China, American str., for San Francisco.
- 7, Gregory Apear, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 7, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for K. C. Wan.
- 7, Marmora, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 7, Pera, British str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Samsen, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Tanba Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Titan, Brit. str., for Keelung & Seattle.
- 7, Teinan, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Chipping, British str., for Tientsin.
- 8, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 8, Haichow, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Joshi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 8, Kjeld, Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.
- 8, Orland, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
- 8, Phayen, French str., for Hongay.
- 8, Satsuma, British str., for New York.

- 8, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 8, Taishan, British str., for Hongay.
- 8, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 8, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 10, Frankley, British str., for Hankow.
- 10, Goeben, German str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 10, Hupeh, British str., for Hoihow.
- 10, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
- 10, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 10, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Wingsang, British str., for Moji.
- 11, Aldenham, British str., for Moji.
- 11, Ascot, British str., for Durbin.
- 11, Calohas, British str., for Singapore.
- 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 11, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
- 11, Hue, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 11, Iochia, Italian str., for Singapore.
- 11, Knivsberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.
- 11, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
- 11, Taikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 11, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
- 11, Tydeus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Vorwaerts, German str., for Hoihow.
- 11, Yat-hing, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Amoy, German str., for Quinlon.
- 12, Ceylon, British str., for Singapore.
- 12, Hilary, German str., for Saigon.
- 12, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Manila.
- 12, Suisang, British str., for Saigon.
- 12, Tremont, Am. str., for Keelung & Tacoma.
- 12, Tsintav, German str., for Hoihow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Serper, Messrs. Singleton, H. Horstmann, T. Pearson, T. Petelin, and K. Harikovsky.

Per *Aki Maru*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Clares, Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Jaffray and child, Major and Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. D. nman Fuller, Mrs. T. Shirai & child, Mrs. McAllward, Mrs. Kaye and infant, Misses Geary and M. Williams, Messrs. R. J. Birbeck, E. Ralph, M. Newbrum, A. R. Sutherland, A. H. Crook, A. W. Grant, E. Harn, W. Jones, F. Ikeda, A. L. Hairn and H. L. Manderson.

Per *Borneo*, from Hongkong, from London, Sub. Lieut. Joseph Comdr. Wilson, Messrs. A. C. Combes and H. Woodward; from Singapore, Mr. A. Denn, and Rev. H. C. Bower; from London, for Shanghai, Miss D. Fraser, Messrs. G. H. Alcock, S. Furniss, F. D. Allin, T. Griffiths, A. Aitkenhead, E. Randall, W. Parker, D. Ingleson, F. McLeod, V. N. Peck, J. Sutcliffe, H. Simpson, J. L. Swallow and F. Gates; for Yokohama, Messrs. J. G. Taylor and H. Smith.

Per *Goeben*, from Hongkong, from Genoa, Dr. Med. Alwin Buse, Messrs. F. Reiber & familie, Willy Jinhaf, Schwester Therese Wagner, Sanitätsrat Faulenbach, Wilh. Steinemann, Heint. Maas & Karl Wahnes; from Southampton, Mr. Al'an Hugh Stewart; from Naples, Messrs. Marschbefehl Heizer Grün, Engel and Bemlote; from Singapore, Mrs. W. D. O'Brien, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Koh Ee, Mrs. Ein Osada, Messrs. Lieutenant Fiedler, H. F. Brown, K. Kawasaki and G. H. Gaynor.

Per *P. E. Friedrich*, from Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Bateson Wright, Mr. and Mrs. von Kunowski, Dr. E. Stilling, Dr. E. Madelung, Messrs. A. W. von Andel, W. G. Humphreys, Ph. E. Wolff, M. Speelman, Y. Ohlsen, Hungee and Carl Book; from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Osaki, and Mr. S. Yamaguchi; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Wanamater, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Vosburg, Mrs. Rolando, Messrs. H. A. Westphal, R. Halbritter, Marquis Barthélemy, Comte de Hondetot, James Deat, F. Hesse, W. Luog, Chiavenni, C. M. da Rosa, H. Hiller, Herm. Richter and J. T. Bell.

Per *Tremont*, from Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. McKinny Mr. Mrs. and Miss Mackie, Capt. and Mrs. Butler & child, Capt. and Mrs. King, Capt. and Mrs. Palmer and child, Rev. and Mrs. Brown and infant, Lieut. and Mrs. Bucher and infant, Major Mrs. Miss and Master McCarthy, Master and Mrs. Cole, Mrs. C. W. Mead and child, Mrs. F. E. McDaniel and infant, Mrs. Allan, Mrs. Maitland, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. E. E. Adams, Mrs. A. S. Wadsworth, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Gardenshire and infant, Mrs. Bradley, Misses Reynolds, Peters, Dickson and E. Dickson, Messrs. Borue, C. A. Henver, D. B. Walker, E. Baldenecker, I. Iselhard, Reynolds and I. H. Hefti.

Per *Ceylon*, from Yokohama, Lady Berkeley, Misses Berkeley (2) and K. Stewart, Rev. A. D. Stewart, Major Clelland, Messrs. G. Ballock and Donaldson.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mrs. J. Berliner, Messrs. W. Nolan, K. E. McCormack, Thesbald Diehl, Jere Maupin, Yang Shripo, Luis Rabat and Howard Lyons.

DEPARTED.

Per *Tartar*, from Hongkong, for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Taylor, Misses Tembrell and Willis, Messrs. J. W. Miller, Fabig, Potts, Thwaiter, Hedger, Brown, H. Clasen and Stedman.

Per *Zafiro*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mrs. Oscar Lee, Dr. D. B. Todd, Messrs. Jose Javier Ngo Chioo, O. G. Lee, H. E. Lee, H. H. Lee, H. H. Michell, C. O. Barrett, Arndt Thronsen, Ommund Jonsen, Ludirk Kristian and Einar Andersen.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, from Hongkong, for Australia, &c., Lieut. Fiedler, Messrs. Robert S. Crombie, James Dear, Theobald Diehl, Sanitätsrat Faulenbach, H. Horstmann, Singleton, W. Sleinemann, Karl Wahnes and Schwester Therese Wagner.

Per *Goeben*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. Robertson and 4 children, Messrs. G. Matsua, T. Golo, L. Knox, E. Fescher, T. G. Schroeter, S. T. Musso, W. A. Brand and Paul Nentz; for Kobe, Mrs. Ono, and Mr. F. H. Doolittle; for Yokohama, Mrs. C. Asgaard, Mrs. Ishu, Messrs. W. Melchers and J. Botelho.

Per *Tango Maru*, from Hongkong, for Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Stubbings, 2 infants and amah, Mr. and Mrs. S. Stein and child, Mrs. Webb Mrs. Silva, Masters Silva (2), Dr. D. H. Ainsie, Sir Francis Piggott, Sir Henry Berkeley, Messrs. John Souza, G. J. Harman, J. Witchell, Jas. W. White, K. Schadelee, C. van den Heuval, D. van den Heuval, Ch. van Oorsches, C. Kaizer and P. Kenniphaas.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Hongkong, for Manila, &c., Mr. and Mrs. D. Barrows, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. D. Bonner and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. s. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Dawling, Mr. and Mrs. W. Winn, Mr. and Mrs. I. Winn, Mr. and Miss Clark, Master and Miss Barrows, Dr. Mrs. and Master Weiber, Mrs. E. K. van Tine, Mrs. R. S. Whiting, Mrs. S. Imanishi, Misses (2) Holder, P. Clark, Whiting, A. Whiting, T. Barrows, Hubbard, Margaret McCann, C. Donaldson, Gilmore, K. M. Gilmore and Suzi Miyagawa, Messrs. A. Clark, Rosenbluth, Feist, Thornwald S. Hegard, Percy Sturtevant, Prentice Whitman, E. L. Seymour, Bement, Coon, Mohler, Wiley, Stockholm, Barnes, John Burns, J. C. McLaren, S. Kato, M. Puno, S. Imanishi, J. Nishimura, J. A. Bonas, K. Takagbita and T. Wada.

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